

Polly Toynbee:
Crime? What crisis?

Commentators, page 15



Bridget Jones:
Back in town

Section Two, page 5



THE INDEPENDENT

3,100 WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1996 WEATHER: Showers 40p (inc VAT)

Can anyone fill Clarke's shoes?

COLIN BROWN and ANTHONY BEVINS

John Major last night left his Chancellor Kenneth Clarke swinging in the wind in spite of issuing a mild rebuke to a Foreign Office minister for accusing Mr Clarke of being "out of line" with the rest of the Government on a single European currency.

The Prime Minister was forced to support his Chancellor to stop Mr Clarke's position being made untenable at the Tory party conference in a fortnight where right-wing Eurosceptics will be lining up to challenge him.

The Prime Minister's office said Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had been "mistaken" in his attack on the Chancellor's views, but it stopped short of a full message of support for Mr Clarke.

Mr Major spoke to Mr Clarke by telephone yesterday when the Chancellor landed in Bermuda, but subsequent No 10 statements failed to answer reports that Mr Major is furious with Mr Clarke for holding out against a more Euro-sceptic policy, which could trump Tony Blair's New Labour.

The Prime Minister's dither followed a clear-cut challenge from Paddy Ashdown at the Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton: "Stop undermining

Liberal Democrats have a lot to offer, but their honesty must include a recognition that the Voters' are not as liberal-spirited and reform-minded as Mr Ashdown would have us believe. Leading article, page 13

Cabinet colleagues privately said it would be "disastrous" for the Government to lose the Chancellor, Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, lined up with Mr Clarke, warning the Euro-sceptics that the option for entering a single currency would not be closed before the election. But the signal from Downing Street was double-edged, making it clear that Mr Clarke must adhere in future to the line the Cabinet has agreed.

The No 10 spokesman said: "The Prime Minister has made it clear all ministers must adhere to the position agreed by the Cabinet. The Chancellor fully supports this policy and believes his views have been misinterpreted. The Minister of State gave his interview on the basis of press reports of the Chancellor's views and accepts that he was mistaken..."

It was intended as a clear signal to the Euro-sceptics to hold back from attacking Mr Clarke at the Tory conference, but it is unlikely to keep them at bay.

Sir Edward Heath said there was an attempt to "get Clarke" by the Euro-sceptics, and there was no attempt to deny reports that Mr Major shared the anger at Mr Clarke's remarks.

The backstabbing against the Chancellor also involved Conservative Central Office. Senior Tory sources were behind reports that Mr Major was furious over Mr Clarke's claim at the weekend that it would be "pathetic" if Britain waited for other countries to launch a single currency before deciding whether to join.

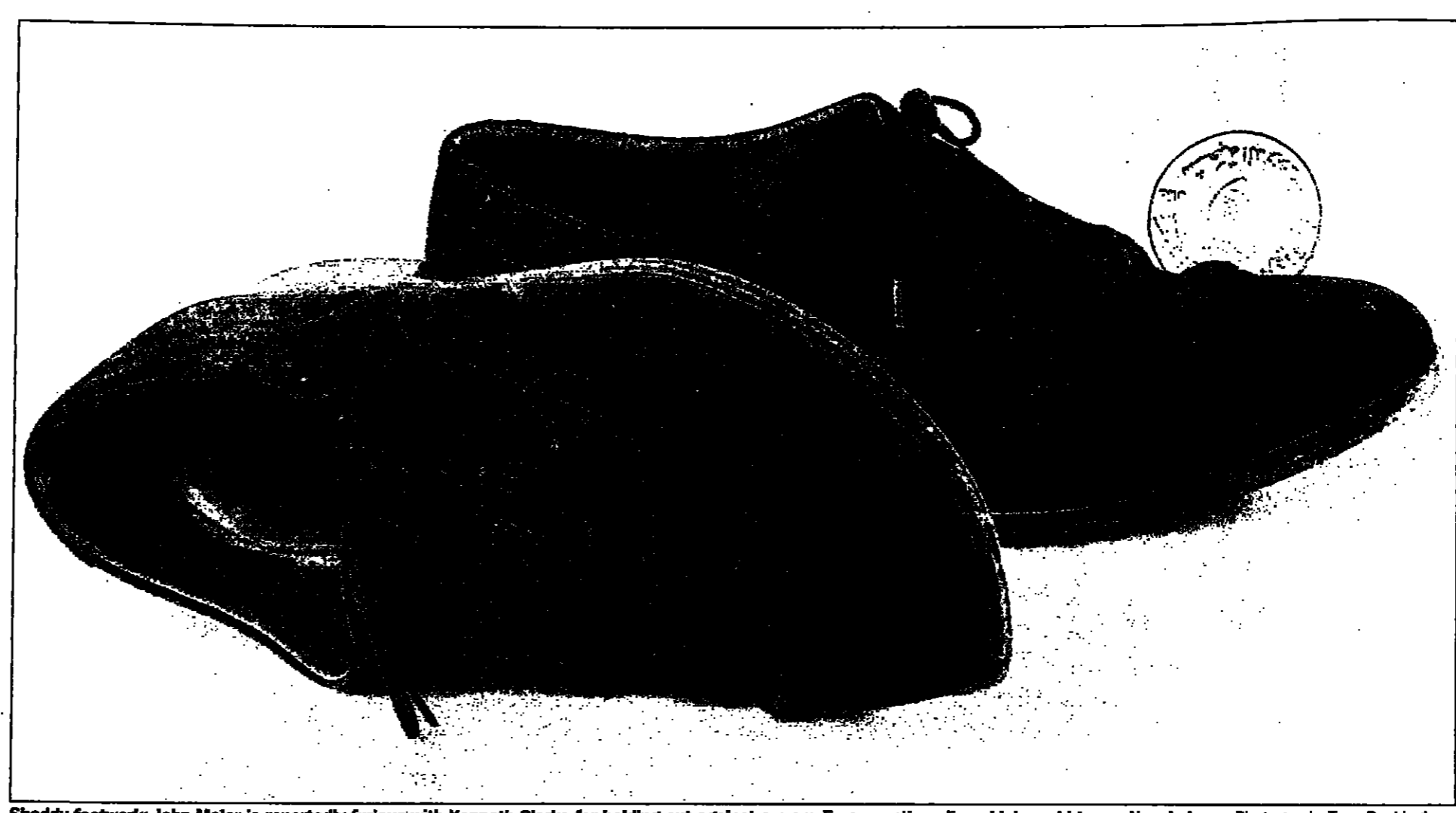
Mr Clarke was in the air en route for a finance conference in Bermuda when Downing Street began the damage limitation operation.

Sir Nicholas, a Euro-sceptic, said: "I think he will be out of line with the view of the vast majority of the party and I think it is out of line with what the government policy has been as expressed before."

"I think the difference between Mr Clarke and some of us is that he thinks we can have a single European currency without having a federal Europe. We think, many of us in the party, that that would be an inevitable step down a road we don't want to advance down."

Two normally supportive Cabinet colleagues yesterday told *The Independent* that it was the Chancellor's own fault. "The trouble with Ken is that he is just too honest and speaks his mind," said one.

Another Cabinet minister said: "There are only two people out of the 55 million in this country who think we are going to join the single currency in the first wave - Ken Clarke and possibly Heseltine."



Shoddy footwear: John Major is reportedly furious with Kenneth Clarke for holding out against a more Euro-sceptic policy which could trump New Labour. Photograph: Tony Buckingham

No. They're not even fit to tie the laces

By Andrew Marr

Here we go again. There are two kinds of cabinet splits. There are the ordinary ones; and there are the great splits between Prime Ministers and Chancellors which have marked British post-war politics - Thorneycroft and Macmillan in 1958; Roy Jenkins and Harold Wilson during the late 1960s; the bitter Nigel Lawson, Margaret Thatcher grudge match of 1990. This autumn's argument between John Major and Kenneth Clarke is climbing into the same league.

How do we know? Party managers have been making heroic efforts to paper over the crack, insisting there is an "agreed policy" of neutrality on the single currency.

The trouble is, neither Prime Minister nor Chancellor seem much interested in colluding with the official line of the administration they lead.

Mr Clarke, describing a policy of late entry into monetary union as "pathetic" was indulging in a wholly deliberate provocation - "just baring his

backside and daring everyone to kick it", as a Tory official charitably put it.

Yesterday it earned him one of the most vicious kickings that a senior Tory minister has had from the Tory Press in modern times. It came in particular from the Murdoch empire, which both Mr Major and Tony Blair are so nervous of. The *Sun* said he should go or be sacked: "Don't kid yourself that anyone would miss you, Ken... Clarke must be stamped on." Using notably similar language, the *Times* said he was dishonourable and brutally concluded: "He would be less missed than he likes to think and little mourned."

Given that Clarke is a Chancellor with a rising economic reputation, whose pre-election Budget matters hugely to the Tories and who is speaking out bravely in what he believes is Britain's national interest, this is extraordinary stuff. A political

lynch mob of compulsive disloyalists are now howling against the Chancellor for arguing his case rather more moderately than they do theirs.

Most are not fit to tie the laces of his notoriously unhygienic suede shoes; and among the politicians in the lynch mob, there isn't one big enough to fill them.

What is Mr Major's attitude to all this? His message of support yesterday, after a junior minister openly attacked the Chancellor (put up to it, we hear), was cold and terse. Deliberately so, surely. Major's people have been briefing in ever-stronger terms about how angry he is with Clarke, and how strongly he personally opposes the single currency.

In this way, Major has been using the parliamentary lobby to send desperate semaphore signals to Clarke's bitterest critics.

The loss of Clarke would cause serious Budget problems, and perhaps market ones too:

other ministers would go. Major, however, is continuing to push. After all, the Chancellor was teetering on the edge of resignation in April, and didn't go then.

Leftish Tories now fear a carefully planned ambush at the Conservative conference, when candidates in marginal seats will stride to the rostrum begging Mr Major to help them win in the spring by declaring himself personally against monetary union.

If Major "let slip" his own view, he would change the Government's policy; on such matters no prime minister speaks "in a personal capacity". That would panic many senior people in the City, who need the option of joining left genuinely open.

The clearing banks are among the businesses most affected and we should expect to see a few more names breaking silence soon, including the chief executive of Barclays, Martin Taylor.

So holding the line until May is the first purpose of the

Clarkeites. But if the Tories lose the election, Clarke might still be in a pivotal position, not as a Tory leader, but as a factional leader in the new parliament. Why? Because a Portillo or Redwood-led Tory opposition would lose the pro-European Tories. One said this week: "I don't think anyone has ever behaved as disloyally as Redwood... a lot of us won't forgive him and we won't serve under him."

As Prime Minister, Tony Blair would face just the same

dilemmas and would have, no doubt, rebels on his benches. So pro-EMU Tory MPs could find themselves mattering to Britain's future in Europe, if not to the future of the Conservative Party itself.

These are deep waters. But as the anti-Brussels Tories scent victory, feeling themselves close to hounding Clarke out of politics, they should exercise a little modesty. He's a brave and tough man. It won't be as easy as that.

WHEN YOU RETIRE
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE
AN INTEREST.
ESPECIALLY IF IT'S
7.25% INTEREST.

After years of working hard for your money Abbey National's Retirement Savings Bond can make your money work hard for you offering a guaranteed interest rate of 7.25% gross p.a. throughout the 5 year term. You can also choose to receive your interest monthly or annually whichever suits your needs.

But, this is a limited offer so don't delay. Call us free for further information on 0800 100 801 quoting reference A411B, or call into your nearest branch.

Abbey National

Opening times Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm or Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm. For your security and to assist us in improving our service to you we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. To be eligible to open the Bond you must be at least 60 years old. Minimum investment £2,500. Maximum investment £75,000. No additional deposits will be accepted after the Bond is opened. No withdrawals or closure may be made from the Bond before 1.9.97. The Bond will mature on 1.9.2001. You may be able to register with us to receive interest gross, otherwise it will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. See leaflet for full conditions. Abbey National and the Umbrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.



Judge says stalking should be a criminal offence

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

A defence barrister was reported to the Bar Council yesterday after he told a court that a stalker's victim had behaved like a "Queen Bee that dresses to kill". The barrister was rebuked by the judge, who also called for a new law making stalking a criminal offence.

The stalker, Clarence Morris, a convicted rapist, was later found guilty by a Southwark Crown Court jury of two charges of assault for conducting a terrifying campaign against Perry Southall, a dental nurse, 20. Branding him a "very dangerous man", Judge Gerald Butler called for a new law making stalking a criminal offence, to be brought in without delay.

While adjourning sentence until 22 October, Judge Butler said he was considering detention in a secure mental hospital for Morris, who had subjected Ms Southall to 200 incidents of harassment, including twice threatening her with a blade-edged wallpaper scraper.

He had also showered her with bottles of champagne,



Stalker Clarence Morris and his barrister, David Stanton



threw items of women's underwear into the east London dental practice where she worked, and plagued her with 35 letters declaring his love for her. The six-man, six-woman jury agreed with the prosecution that the campaign amounted to actual bodily harm because it had psychologically damaged Ms Southall to such an extent that it was equivalent to physical injury. He was also convicted of common assault.

The case was as noteworthy for the description of Ms Southall by the barrister David Stanton, which prompted Judge Butler, of the International Conference

... of being on the unwelcome end of male attraction", he said. "Is it fair that a young lady who dresses to attract, the Queen Bee that dresses to kill... cries out foul because somebody finds her attractive?" Mr Stanton said.

Judge Butler suggested that the jury might think the remarks were "nothing more than an insult to Ms Southall of a kind that affronts your common sense". After the verdict he said he could not let pass unchallenged Mr Stanton's observations "about women in general and Ms Southall in particular, presenting themselves in a manner designed to attract men and what they must expect as a result."

"May I publicly and entirely dissociate myself from your comments as to that which I believe ought never to have been made," Ms Bindel said Mr Stanton's comments encouraged "a licence to rape, harass and assault any woman who dresses in a way some have decided is seductive or flirtatious."

"Women have the right to dress however they wish and it should not be seen as an open invitation to harassment."

QUICKLY

Worked to breakdown Britain's workforce is being driven to the brink of a mass nervous breakdown as employees work the longest hours in Europe. Page 3

Dead suspect named
Details emerged about the IRA suspect, Dermot O'Neill, 27, who was shot by police during a huge anti-terrorist operation in which 10 tons of explosives were recovered. Page 2

CONTENTS

Section 1
BUSINESS & CITY 17-21
COMMENT 18-19
FOREIGN NEWS 10-12
GAZETTE 16
HOME NEWS 9-9
LEADING ARTICLES 18
LETTERS 21
SHARES 23-25
SPORT 26-27
UNIT TRUSTS 27
Section 2
ARTS 6-7
FINANCE 19
LAW 17
LISTINGS 20-21
LIVING 4-5
RADIO 27
TELEVISION 28
TRAVEL 10-12
WEATHER 21



news

'Lovely lad' killed in raid on IRA

JASON BENNETT
and DAVID MCKITTRICK

Details emerged yesterday about the IRA suspect, Dermot O'Neill, 27, who was shot dead by police during a huge anti-terrorist operation in which 10 tonnes of explosives were found. The parents of Mr O'Neill, who was born and lived in London, flew from their home in the Irish Republic yesterday to identify their son's body. Their other son, Shane, 23, is understood to be among the five men arrested during the early morning raids on Monday. All of the suspects were still being questioned yesterday at

Paddington Green police station. Armed officers carried out raids at four addresses and recovered a vast amount of home-made explosives, two lorries, car boot traps, and guns at a north London warehouse. Eoghan and Teresa O'Neill, who are retired, yesterday travelled to London from their home in Kilbriann, 30 miles from Cork. Their son was shot at a guesthouse in Hammer-smith, west London and later died in hospital. Shane was also arrested at the address. Dermot O'Neill was born and lived in London and, like his brother Shane, went to London Oratory School in south-west

London. John McIntosh, the headmaster of the school, whose pupils include Tony Blair's son, Euan, said both were "well-behaved and pleasant". There are reports that Dermot O'Neill was sentenced to 12 months in a young offenders' centre after being convicted of fraud and deception charges in 1988. The offences were linked to the Shepherds Bush branch of the Bank of Ireland involving a sum of £75,000, a part of which was reportedly channelled to the IRA. Alan Finn, 36, who lives opposite the brothers in Averil Street, said he saw Shane being arrested. He said: "He and his

brother were very neighbourly. They didn't come across as being Irish because they both talked with Cockney accents." Mr O'Neill's parents moved to Ireland from London two years ago when they retired. Mr O'Neill originates from Co Cork and his wife from Dublin. They also have two daughters. Dermot O'Neill was in Cork for his father's birthday a couple of weeks ago, according to local residents. Publican Charlie Madden said: "I'm shocked. This was a lovely lad who came home to see his father a couple of times a year." He added that the family never spoke about, nor got involved in, politics.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party, regarded as the political wing of the INLA, claimed yesterday that O'Neill had been unarmed when shot, and called on the media to investigate his death. The other four men being questioned are known as Brian McHugh, James Murphy, Patrick Kelly and Michael Phillips, a 21-year-old, newly qualified engineer working at Gatwick airport. Anti-terrorist officers continued to carry out a detailed search of the three raided properties in London and another property in Crawley, Sussex. Early yesterday, the Irish

police also carried out a series of raids on homes close to the southern side of the border in Co Monaghan and also in Co Longford. The moves were linked to the London operation but no one was arrested. The explosives found in London have plunged the Northern Ireland peace process deeper into crisis. The clear indication that the IRA was intent on fresh bombings has hardened Unionist determination that the issue of decommissioning terrorist weapons must be dealt with at the top of the multi-party talks agenda, which has still not been agreed following weeks of wrangling by participants.

Bombs blast British shops

MICHAEL STREETER
and PHIL REEVES

A British chain of opticians has been hit by a bombing campaign thought to have been inspired by one of the Mafia-style gangs proliferating in the former Soviet Union. Three stores owned by Vision Express in Lithuania were attacked. The company, which also has stores in Russia, Latvia and Poland and 120 in the Britain, said it had received no demands for payment in return for protection before the bombings, a common tactic in Mafia-style extortionist gangs. But the suspicion remained that the firm had been targeted as part of a wave of organised crime which has hit the Lithuania state since the collapse of Communism.

Dean Butler, the head of Vision Express, said: "We are pleased to say that all three stores are trading as usual this morning and it does not appear to have deterred our customers."

The blasts on Monday took place almost simultaneously in the capital, Vilnius, the second city, Kaunas, and the northern town of Panevezhys. No one was hurt. The Panevezhys store had its doors and windows blown out. A spokesman for the Lithuanian interior ministry said that at the scene of the blast in Kaunas a grenade ring was found. A man was arrested in Vilnius and was believed to be a resident of Panevezhys, known as a hotbed of organised crime and where gang shoot-outs are common. Vision Express, based in Nottingham, set up the first of its four stores in Lithuania last year. It also has shops in Argentina, Belgium and the Republic of Ireland.



Shadow force: Part of a multi-national guard of honour at the opening yesterday of Nato's new headquarters for its maritime operations, the Atlantic Building at Northwood, Middlesex. It will house 224 men from 10 countries. Photograph: Brian Harris

Labour to keep Red Flag flying

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The Red Flag, the musical equivalent of the old Clause IV, has been revived and will go ahead in curtailed form at the end of the Labour Party conference after party leaders considered a break with yet another hallowed Labour tradition. Plans for next week's Black-

pool conference, to be discussed at today's meeting of the party's National Executive, are expected to include a low-key rendition of a single verse of the anthem of socialism, as last year. Tony Blair has discussed with his advisers whether or not to drop what one insider called the "depressing dirge". But a party spokeswoman said yesterday: "It will be sung at the end of the

conference on Friday, as usual." The song is believed to be regarded by Mr Blair as an embarrassment, with its archaic reference to a flag dyed in the blood of "our martyred dead", and the raising of clenched fists during the singing. Last year this presentational problem was "minimised" by having a single verse sung by a choir, giving delegates little chance to join in. But ditching the ritual altogether would produce an outcry from many party members. One of the Labour leader's advisers argued that there "are no votes in [dropping] it". At last year's Brighton con-

ference, Mr Blair and his wife Cherie Boote caused a stir when they walked off the stage before the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, the other part of the ritual which some party managers regard as evoking uncomfortable images of the past. Strenuous efforts were made by Neil Kinnock as party leader to shift attention away from the two songs. Peter Mandelson, Labour's media chief and now the MP for Hartlepool, introduced - unannounced - the singing of the more upbeat *Jerusalem* in 1988. But this process was considered to have gone too far at the

1991 pre-election conference, which ended with a medley including Queen's *We Are The Champions*. The blame for sounding a triumphalist note fell on Jim Parish, the former Labour official who also organised the disastrous Sheffield rally in the 1992 election campaign - although in that he was simply carrying out instructions from Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaigns co-ordinator. The Red Flag, to the tune of *O Tannenbaum*, has been sung at the end of Labour conferences since the party's foundation at the turn of the century. Jack O'Sullivan, page 15

Pollution threatens Antarctic tourist boom

MICHAEL STREETER

It seems like the ultimate getaway from the 20th-century holiday. Five million square miles of snow-covered virgin land of Antarctica and the South Pole, with its penguins, seals and dramatic landscapes is becoming a tourist Mecca. But the dreaded P-word of modern life - pollution - has encroached into even this remote enclave. High-powered scientific stations have left behind abandoned huts, oil drums, computers and the everyday rubbish of contemporary life. Dr Bernard Stonehouse, a polar biologist with the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, and author of the first travel book

to the area, *Antarctica: the Traveler's Guide*, says that tourists to the distant south have been quick to point out the debris. "From that has grown the concept that Antarctica needs cleaning up - and it is being." "Many nations are working there scientifically and have left abandoned huts, piles of drums and debris. There have been aircraft, tractors, trailers, dog teams, cooks, builders and plumbers working out there." "They quite simply haven't bothered to tidy up in the past, but now they are being made to. Tourists and visitors have been complaining that they haven't paid money to see a rubbish dump," he added. In the past decade, the num-

ber of tourists to the area has doubled to 10,000. Intrepid visitors pay up to £5,000 to cruise around frozen land masses in the Antarctic summer, and brave temperatures of -10C. Abercrombie & Kent, who organise tours to the area on the ship *Explorer*, say their trips are designed to be environmentally friendly and they are not aware of any complaints of pollution from their clients. The British Antarctic Survey said its scientists were extremely careful not to leave any debris behind at its exploration centres. "To us, Antarctica is a fantastic, unique laboratory and we do everything we can to keep it clean," said Dr John Shears, environmental officer with BAS.

significant shorts

Tory flagship tips out refuse contract

The Conservatives' flagship local authority has been forced to call a halt to a private refuse collection service after being inundated with complaints. Wandsworth Council has given the Serviceteam company 12 months' notice to quit although the contract had five years left to run. Arguing that it constituted a "spectacular failure" of the compulsory competitive tendering policy, union officials claimed that the company had failed to empty an average of 100 bins a day and received 800 complaints in one week during July. Phil Walker, a director of Serviceteam, confirmed the company was losing around £1m a year on the contract and had come to a settlement with the council. A spokesman for the Tory group said it was only the second time, out of 110 contracts, that this had happened. "We are convinced that Compulsory Competitive Tendering gives value for money for residents," he said. *Barrie Clement*

Law will force schools to set targets

Schools will be required by law to measure their progress against performance targets from next year, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education announced yesterday. They will have to set their own targets and will be compelled to tell parents in their annual reports whether they have met them. Mrs Shephard said: "Managers throughout the UK know the benefits of setting targets, comparing performance and drawing up plans for meeting those targets." Mrs Shephard said: "Schools will be expected to set demanding targets." Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers said the announcement was an election gimmick. "It's actually aimed at the voter but it will hurt the teacher by focussing attention away from teaching and on to yet another set of targets." *Judith Judd*

Quarters sale nets £1,662m for MoD

The controversial sale of the Ministry of Defence married quarters went through yesterday with the exchange of contracts with Annington Homes at a price of £1,662m. The income from the sale and leaseback of the 37,400 married quarters will boost Treasury receipts for possible tax cuts in the Budget. About 2,400 homes will be taken over by the company freehold. *Colin Brown*

L-drivers face tougher marks

Tougher marking is to be introduced for learner drivers taking their theory test, the Driving Standards Agency announced yesterday. About 85 per cent of those who have sat the test since it was introduced in July have passed. The DSA is now to make the pass mark higher, rising from 26 to 30 out of 35, starting from 1 October. Bernard Heydan, the chief executive of the DSA, said people would be "safer drivers as a result".

Car-free day for Britain

Britain's first car-free day is to be held, with the support of government ministers, on 17 June next year when people will be asked to leave their cars at home and travel by public transport, foot or bicycle. *Christian Wolmar*

Welsh poets call off strike

Welsh bards are claiming a victory after the BBC agreed to cut the amount of English on its Welsh radio service. The poets refused to take part in the recording of a new series of radio shows in protest at BBC Radio Cymru using too much spoken English. But they have called off a five-week strike after the BBC promised to ban English jingles and to play fewer English records. A Radio Cymru spokesman said it was fantasy to suggest the BBC had given in. "Most of the changes introduced... have been in direct response to listeners' wishes," he said.

Students get attack alarms

Students from Launceston College, the school where the murdered teenager Caroline Dickinson was a pupil, have been issued with personal attack alarms for the school's first residential field trip since her brutal sex killing in the French village of Pleines Fongeres in July. Caroline, 13, had been sleeping between some bunk beds with four other girl students when an intruder raped and suffocated her in the room in the youth hostel. French police are still hunting her killer. The alarms have been issued to 11 pupils and a teacher from the school who are on a week's A-level geography trip at an unnamed youth hostel in the UK.

Social worker jailed

A social worker who beat a disabled neighbour senseless and stabbed him with a screwdriver in a feud over a garden fence was jailed for six weeks. Victim Howard Marshall begged for mercy as he was battered by at least 20 punches from David Hickson, a court heard. Hickson, 45, was found guilty of assault after a private prosecution brought by his neighbours because the Crown Prosecution Service twice dropped hearings claiming lack of evidence.

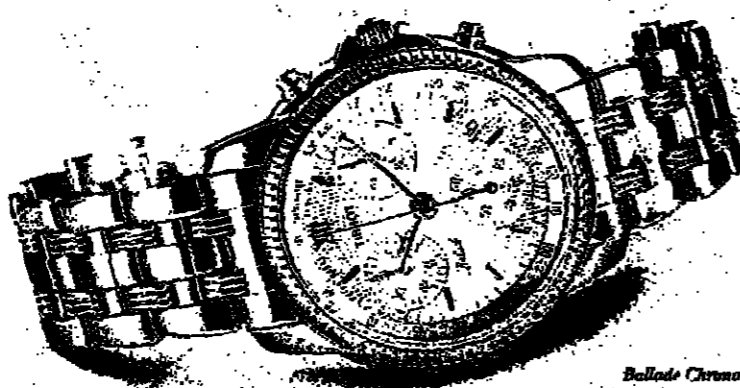
Airline offers bird a lift

An injured housemartin is all set to migrate south for the winter - by scheduled airline. The tiny creature was unable to make it to North Africa under his own steam after a cat tore out its wing feathers. But Algeria's national airline, Air Algérie, has offered to fly him to his winter home. All the tiny hitchhiker, named Merlin, needs now is a lift to Heathrow from Ivybridge, Devon, where David Gabriel, a veterinary surgeon, has been looking after him.



watch the world

The world is becoming smaller. Distances are diminishing. No matter how varied different cultures may be, we are all citizens of the blue planet. In 142 countries all around the globe, people rely on Tissot watches. For instance, on the Tissot Ballade Chrono: enticing elegance harmoniously combined with a sporty touch. Watch Tissot and watch the world.



TISSOT
Since 1853

For your nearest watch dealer contact 01793 611012

No 10 stands by Clarke's accuser

Sir Nicholas Bonsor's position appeared to be safe last night in spite of his attack on the Chancellor.

He is known as a Euro-sceptic, but it is highly unlikely he would have spoken out against Mr Clarke without approval. Sir Nicholas Cosmo Bonsor Bt, 53, MP for Uppingham, has impeccable credentials as a Tory knight. Educated at Eton and Keble College, Oxford, Sir Nicholas was born into the Hambro banking family, he married the daughter of the second Baron Kilmarnock, and he

owns 800 acres in Bedfordshire. Built like a prize bull, he was renowned for his strength at university, and was a rowing "blue". His closest friends include Sir Nicholas Soames, another larger-than-life hunting, shooting and fishing Tory.

As chairman of the cross-party Commons Select Committee on Defence, Sir Nicholas, a former officer with the Royal Bucks Yeomanry, earned a reputation for hard-hitting reports condemning the Treasury's cuts in defence spending, causing "overstretch" in the forces. He believes women should stay at home and rear the children (he has five). His open distaste of "screaming and squawking" feminists is not normally conducive to quick promotion at Westminster. As he demonstrated yesterday, he is not shy about pro-

claiming controversial views. He once rebelled against increases in top people's pay and opposed a government measure to control guns. He voted three times against the Government on the Bill implementing the Maastricht treaty. But John Major has plainly forgiven him all those misdemeanours. The Prime Minister's office dismissed suggestions that the Minister of State at the Foreign Office should resign over his extraordinary assault on the Chancellor. "The matter does not arise," said a source.



Safe: Sir Nicholas Bonsor

هكذا من الأصل

Inquiry into cash paid in police sex case

STEVE BOGGAN

Allegations of sexual harassment within North Yorkshire police force - resulting in a £130,000 compensation payout to a "traumatised" police woman - are to be scrutinised by two separate inquiries.

The county's police authority announced yesterday that it was calling in Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, David O'Dowd, and its own auditors to examine the way the affair was handled.

However, following a five-hour meeting between the North Yorkshire police authority and its Chief Constable, David Burke, both insisted they were satisfied with their own roles. Mr Burke said his hands were clean and the authority said it had acted honourably, although it expressed reservations about police investigating themselves.

The force has been accused of paying off Libby Ashurst, 27, a former officer with the CID at Harrogate, and a colleague, Amanda Rose, who is understood to have received about £10,000, to suppress embarrassing details of the harassment to which they were subjected.

It is understood that a two-year inquiry uncovered incidents of bullying, strange initiation ceremonies and a raft of allegations of sexual harassment. In one incident, the women were asked by a senior officer to wear more provocative clothing, including stockings and suspenders, and in another, a male detective sergeant was accused of stripping and attaching a lost property label to his penis.

Several officers have been disciplined or fined or both, but no one has been dismissed.

After yesterday's hearing, Mr Burke told a news conference that he was confident the affair had been handled correctly. "Over the years many allegations have been made about me," he said. "None of them of a disciplinary nature have ever proved to be successful and that's what I would hope in this case."

"I certainly believe my hands are clean. I have tried to deal with this matter throughout as impeccably as I could."

Angela Harris, police authority chairwoman, said she considered Ms Ashurst's settlement - understood to include an £18,000 pension - fair.

"Miss Ashurst has lost not only her livelihood - she had a bright career ahead of her - she has lost her health and her self-confidence, and from what I read she has completely broken down," Ms Harris said.

"There is no limit on the settlements for sexual harassment at industrial tribunals, and we also have to consider the cost to North Yorkshire Police and the authority if we had gone on further, which could have been very great."

She said that the authority's auditors, Price Waterhouse, would conduct an inquiry to supplement Mr O'Dowd's, and added that she planned to complain to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, over the "inadequacy, inflexibility and inappropriateness" of regulations governing police complaints and discipline and expressing concern about the police investigating themselves.

After the award was made, Ms Ashurst's father, Terry, the principal of Doncaster College of Further Education, had said: "I do not believe the Chief Constable's statement that none of the hierarchy was involved."

"I believe the culture is pervasive of sexual harassment and bullying and I cannot accept that senior officers are so lacking in knowledge of what is going on at the various levels within the force."



Groves of academe: Pickers working yesterday at Manor Farm, Ightham, Kent, one of many fruit areas that has been left with a harvest but not enough people to bring it in. Kent orchards rely on students as casual labour but this autumn the crop is a crucial week late and the students have returned to university. Photograph: David Rose

Workers on the brink of breakdown as Britain becomes sweatshop of Europe

REBECCA FOWLER

Britain's workforce is being driven to the brink of nervous breakdown, with employees working the longest hours in Europe, amid sinking morale and rising divorce rates.

The number of British workers putting more than 50 hours a week has grown by a third according to European Commission figures, with 1 in 59 people working more than 70 hours. The average length of the British working week is calculated at 43.1 hours.

Since the recession, and the "downsizing" of industry, companies have fought for survival. And with bosses continuing to drive workers to the limit - fewer people doing more work on less secure contracts - there are increasing claims that Britain is the new sweatshop of Europe.

Managers themselves are also suffering, according to Professor Cary Cooper, head of occupational psychology at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, who claims Britain will face mass exhaustion if conditions are not improved.

He said: "We could withstand the Dunkirk effect, where people were all for working very hard to come out of the recession, to retain jobs and get businesses back. But in the long term people cannot cope."

"You get your economy going, but all the surveys point to the fact that people are extremely overloaded. If you are to sustain economic development you have to understand it's taking its toll, not only on the health of the workforce but its impact on family life. We also

have the highest divorce rate in Europe."

The first worker to win compensation for work-related stress, a social services manager, was paid £200,000 last year, after suffering a nervous breakdown following a fivefold increase in his caseload. John Walker described afterwards how overwhelmed he had become. He said: "Tiers of man-

agement had been taken out and the others were left to cope. I could do nothing for the people below me and nobody above me wanted to know. I knew I was making mistakes, but I couldn't do anything about it."

In Surrey, the Mother's Union claims the county has the highest divorce rate in Europe, more than 40 per cent, and blames the strain of commuting

and long working hours among its high-achieving residents for the marriage breakdowns.

There are few areas of working life that have been unaffected. The first national 24-hour helpline for stressed doctors was set up earlier this year; the Police Convalescent Home continues to offer a sanctuary to overworked officers; while many low wage earners

are holding down three jobs at a time to make a living.

The professional classes are suffering too. Research earlier this year revealed lawyers to be so overworked they were considering quitting in droves. They described work as the equivalent of a prison sentence, and nine out of 10 said they were suffering overload.

In a survey of 400 companies British workers emerged as having the lowest in morale in Europe. While the Swiss, Dutch and Germans appeared relatively happy with their lot, the British were the most miserable, followed by the Italians.

Roger Maitland, managing director of Survey Research International, which published the findings, said: "Britain has obviously become much more of a pressure-cooker. Everyone has one and a half jobs or none at all, and at every level of the food chain there is significantly more pressure..."

"In the short term we've become very efficient, and it's made us more competitive and the growth rate higher. What I'm arguing for is for Britain to sustain that growth on the back of satisfied employees. Human beings are like machines and they wear out if they are not looked after."

Office well washes away stress

JOJO MOYES

Futons, fish tanks and a wishing well are among the features of a £20m new office building intended to provide the perfect working environment.

It is being built to house 1,000 employees of the catalogue company Freemans who will handle 25 million telephone calls from customers a year.

To keep them relaxed there will be Japanese-style anti-stress rooms equipped with futons and fish tanks for a "tranquil" atmosphere, glass partition walls which appear to have water flowing through them and a wishing well called "the Freemans Fountain of Youth". There will also be a gym, a professional counsellor and nurse.

A spokesman said the design was agreed after surveys into stress at work. "The company decided that because the new call centre is going to be handling virtually all

Freemans' business in terms of catalogue customers phoning orders in, and customer services, that the environment should be calming and relaxing," he said.

The large-scale investment in the quality of the working environment came partly as a result of recognition that the centre's atmosphere was likely to be highly charged.

"This will be an intense working atmosphere and Freemans' attitude is that if stress is high in such an atmosphere you're going to be losing more staff to sickness - it will be more of a drain than a motivator." Freemans believed relaxed and happy staff worked better, he added.

One of the UK's biggest providers of home shopping, the company has been in Sheffield for 21 years. In a Sixties office block considered ill-equipped for modern working practices.

When the company decided that it had outgrown the building several years ago, it opted to design and build a working environment from scratch.

"Last century, fewer than one in a 100 people worked in an office," Keith Basnett, Freemans' general manager, said. "Today, office life is the norm. Unfortunately, few companies have moved with the times, with the result that many companies are horrendous places to work, and drain, rather than motivate staff."

"Although in a call centre handling 25 million calls each year we can't eliminate stress altogether, we can minimise the risks. We've created a working environment that will offer our people the facilities and support they need to tackle stress in a positive way."

The building is due to be completed next Spring and is expected to be fully operational by the Summer.

10
1986-1996

On 7 October we will be celebrating a decade of innovation - ten years during which The Independent has changed the shape of quality journalism. We are marking our birthday with a week full of surprising improvements and inspirations. Make it a date.

NATIONAL SAVINGS
Investment Ideas

HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

I WANT TO BE SURE my savings will keep pace with inflation. Any ideas?
Terry Pearson, LEEDS



SANDRA DILWORTH
National Savings

IF YOU BUY In-Linked Savings Certificates, not only will your savings keep pace with inflation (as measured by the Retail Prices Index), but you will also earn an extra 2.5% per annum, tax-free over five years.

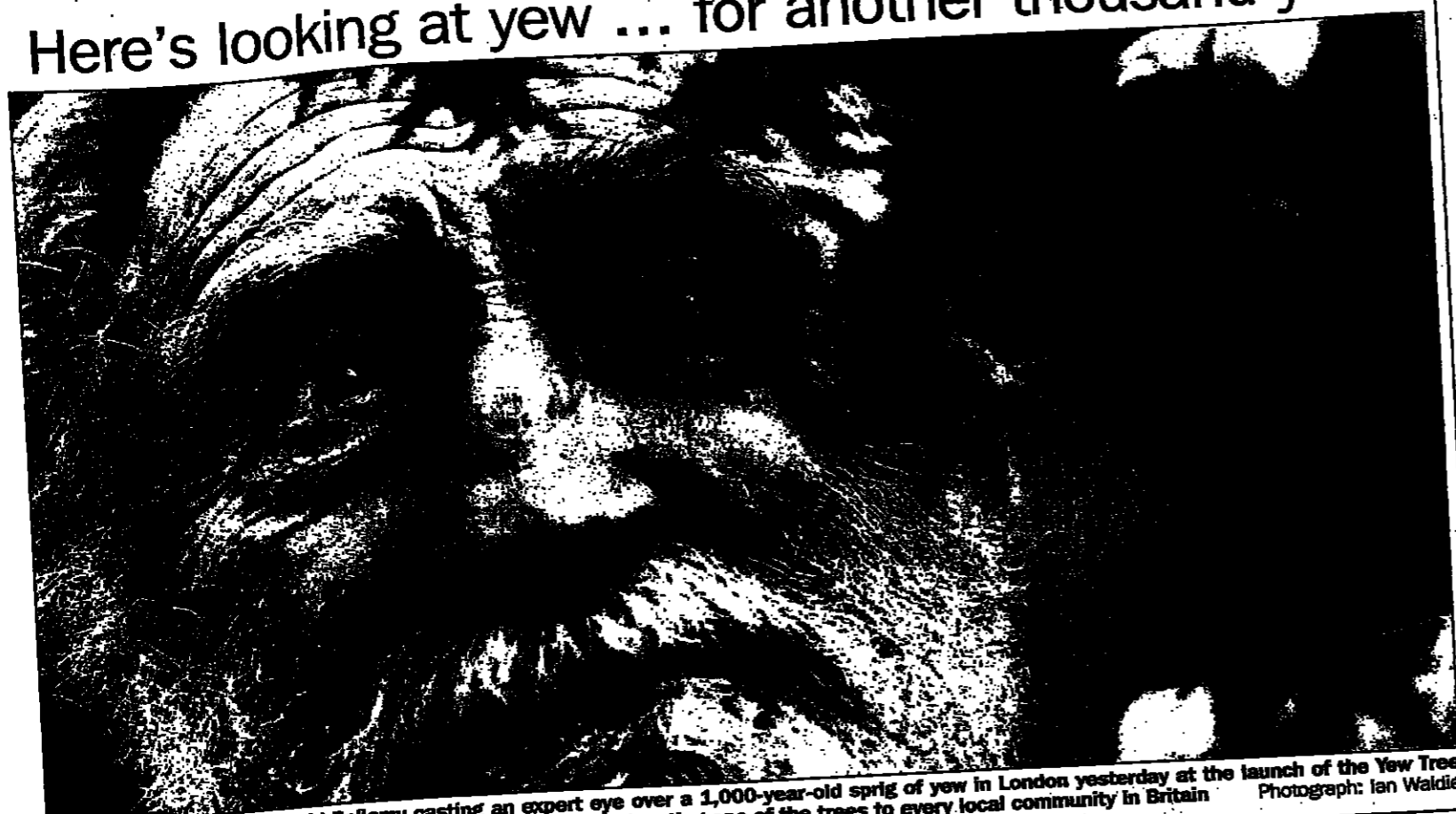
Buy now using the application form in Money. Or fax a request to our Certificates, freecall 0800 220 600 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Unique Investment Opportunities
The Treasury

news

Here's looking at yew ... for another thousand years



20/20 vision: Professor David Bellamy casting an expert eye over a 1,000-year-old sprig of yew in London yesterday at the launch of the Yew Tree Millennium Project which aims to celebrate the occasion by donating one of the trees to every local community in Britain. Photograph: Ian Walde

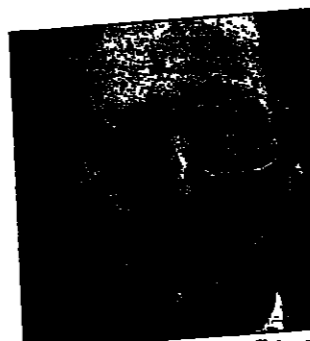
Surge in crime gives lie to official claims

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The number of crimes in England and Wales rose in the past year, with violent offences shooting up by 17 per cent, according to two reports published yesterday.

One of the studies, which is considered the most accurate, showed that crime has continued to rise since 1981, despite government claims that they had "turned the tide" in the past few years and offences were going down.

The British Crime Survey (BCS), in which 16,500 people were interviewed, reveals that only one in four crimes are recorded by the police. In 1995,



Michael Howard: New figures on crime are encouraging

it estimates there were more than 19 million offences, although in the past year the rate of increase has slowed considerably, with a 1.1 per cent rise.

The second survey shows that the number of crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales rose by 0.4 per cent - the first time this has happened in four years.

The figures were seized upon by opposition parties as evidence that the Government's anti crime initiatives were failing, although Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, insisted the trends were "encouraging".

News that crime rates are increasing is disastrous for the Government on the eve of the party conference and months away from the general election.

On the positive side, both reports recorded a 1 per cent drop in the number of burglaries and car thefts, but the big hike in all types of violent crime, including rape, is worrying.

The BCS takes place every two years and questions adults about crimes which have not been reported to the police as well as ones which have. Particularly common offences that go unreported are minor assaults, car vandalism and personal theft, although more serious crimes are also withheld.

In the period 1993 to 1995, for those crimes which can be compared, recorded offences

fell by 8 per cent, whereas BCS figures rose by 2 per cent.

The most worrying trend is the rise in violent crime. The BCS found that in most acts of violence, the victim knew the attacker - there were 1.7 million in 1995. Cases of domestic violence have also risen, with about one million incidents last year, according to the BCS.

The police records show a smaller 10 per cent increase in violent crime to 331,300 offences - the largest rise for eight years - in 1995/96. Offences of violence against the person, which make up two in three violent crimes, rose by 21,400 or 10 per cent. Rapes increased by 14 per cent. Robberies increased by 15 per cent to 72,500.

Fear of crime has dropped, with the proportion of women who felt "very unsafe" or "a bit unsafe" out alone at night falling to 47 per cent in 1996 from 54 per cent in 1994. The elderly are also fearful of attack even though only one in 10 victims of violence is aged over 61.

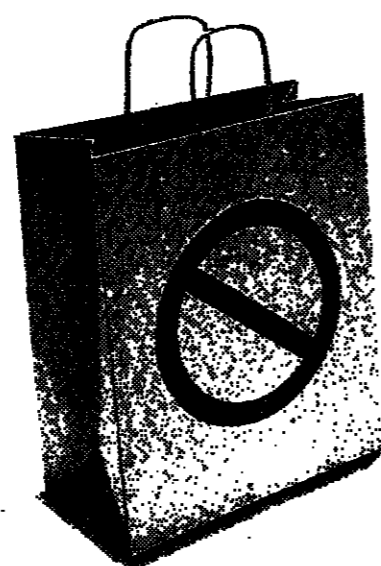
Twenty-four of the 43 police forces in England and Wales recorded fewer crimes in 1995/96. The biggest increases were in Gwent (15 per cent), Cambridgeshire (12 per cent) and West Midlands (8 per cent). Decreases of 13.5 per cent were recorded at Durham, and 5 per cent in Northumbria. The Metropolitan police recorded 11,000 fewer crimes.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, yesterday said: "A year ago, Michael Howard was trumpeting that the crime figures showed a real turning point in the fight against crime. I hope he has now discovered that empty words are no substitute for an effective strategy."

Mr Howard said: "My concern is of the long-term picture. Both the bulletins taken separately and together provide encouraging evidence on the trends in crime."

Folly Tynabee, page 15

"are you still making pointless purchases?"



What's the point?

Don't let valuable rewards slip through your fingers. You can gain Membership Rewards Points on virtually every purchase you make with an American Express Credit, Charge or Corporate Card - whether you're shopping in the High Street or spending abroad. Once you're enrolled, it's one of the fastest and easiest ways to earn complimentary flights, hotel nights, meals at restaurants and more.

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

0800 700 767



Cards

World Service may cut more languages

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

The World Service will have to close some of its language services if the Government does not rethink cuts to its budget, it warned yesterday.

Unveiling detailed plans to cut £6.5m from its budget for next year, its managing director, Sam Younger, admitted a further £5m would have to be cut unless the Government increased its proposed funding.

That could mean closing up to six foreign language services. Vulnerable departments are those covering Africa, Brazil and central Europe. The £6.5m savings in the radio and television service, announced in March - following a planned cut of £4.1m in grant-in-aid, to £131.5m for 1997 to 1998 - will mean the loss of more than 100 jobs from a staff of about 2,000.

However, the announcement is not connected with the bitter row which blew up over BBC plans to merge the World Service news with other news

production, and which were made by the director general John Birt without consultation with Mr Younger.

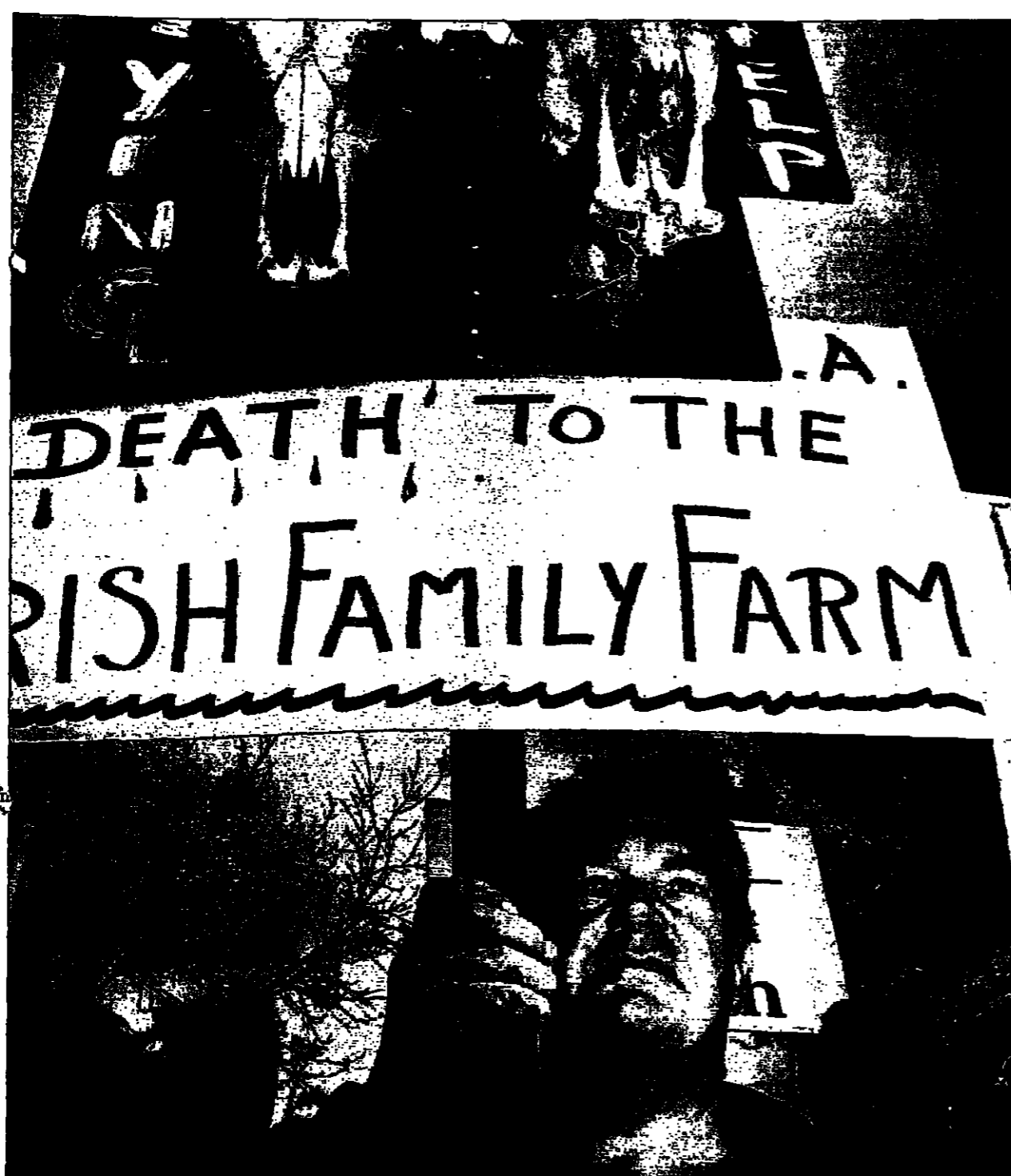
Such has been the outcry over both the proposed merger and the handling of its announcement that the changeover has been put on hold until a working party set up by the Foreign Office and the BBC reports on the issue next month.

"We have done everything we can to cut costs while protecting services for listeners," Mr Younger said yesterday. "We hope that the Government will recognise what has been achieved and look again at its planning figures for next year. If they are not changed, our only option will be to close the language services."

The £6.5m savings will be achieved by reducing services in some parts of the world. Cuts will also be made in central departments including personnel, finance, publicity and audience research offices.

The BBC World Service is funded by the Foreign Office.

هكذا من الأصل



Madding crowd: Farmers demonstrating yesterday outside the hotel in Killarney. Photograph: Michael MacSweeney

EU ministers corralled by Irish farmers with a beef

CATHERINE BUTLER
Killarney, Co Kerry

Agriculture ministers including Douglas Hogg and the EU Farm Commissioner, Franz Fischler, were besieged in a hotel here yesterday by angry Irish beef producers.

Anger at the inability of EU governments to address the difficulties facing farmers and at Britain's failure to eradicate BSE, or "mad-cow disease", boiled over as news of another fudge reached what had been a big but orderly demonstration. Ireland's 10,000 beef producers say they face losses of £200m this year and they blame Lon-

don. The siege reduced to farce the efforts by Ireland, holding the EU presidency, to produce a charm offensive for the European visitors.

Mr Fischler was helicoptered out over the 6,000-strong crowd to get his plane back to Brussels and was last seen scurrying across the lawn, chased by a few mavericks among the mainly peaceful demonstrators. Police over-reacted to the threat of farmer violence or perhaps embarrassing publicity, by locking dozens of European journalists in the hotel's media centre.

Ivan Yates, the Irish Farm Minister, made his way outside to appeal for calm but could

hardly be heard. "No one is denying you the right to protest but I have an international group inside in this hotel." A huge roar went up. In desperation, Mr Yates roared back: "There are some women inside who are very upset." That drew an even bigger roar. In front of the hotel the stretch limousines waiting to take Mr Hogg and other ministers and their wives to Listowel Races were plastered with posters demanding "Action now!" Protesters chanted: "Ye go to the races, we go down the drain."

The Killarney meeting took place against the stand-off between Britain and its EU part-

ners over London's decision to renege on a pledge to eradicate BSE by slaughtering 140,000 cattle.

Mr Hogg was the target of much of the anger yesterday. "Remove Hogg, sell our beef" read one placard.

The Irish farm leader, John Donnelly, accused Britain of "ripping up" the agreement and urged Brussels to "put your foot down on the British".

Ministers cleared the way for the release of £400m to aid the beef market, which is close to collapse, but the farmers dismissed the decision as going nowhere near the levels of aid they need.

Shocking adverts lead safety drive

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

The Government yesterday committed itself to reducing child pedestrian deaths by a quarter over the next three years, possibly saving about 30 lives a year. But no new funds have been made available to help meet the target.

The announcement coincides with the relaunch of harrowing adverts showing home video footage of children revealed to have been killed in road accidents. Following the TV campaign earlier this year, the adverts will be shown in cinemas.

The new strategy attempts to place the onus on drivers, rather than children, to avoid accidents. Yesterday John Bowis, the roads minister, said: "In the majority of incidences, motorists should be able to anticipate



Speed killed: One of the children featured in the videos

situations of potential danger better than a child."

The advice in the strategy report, *Child pedestrian safety in the UK*, published yesterday, says: "The key message to drivers should be that they would not expect error-free behaviour from children in any other walk

of life, and that they must make allowances." While the UK generally has a good pedestrian safety record compared with its European neighbours, its annual average of 1.3 deaths per 100,000 children is nearly 50 per cent higher than the European average of 0.9. In 1995, 132 child

pedestrian were killed and 4,300 seriously injured on the roads.

Britain's higher rate is attributed partly to the higher percentage of children living in urban areas, compared with European countries, but is also thought to be due to a lack of town traffic calming measures.

The report says it would cost £2.3bn to create enforced 20mph zones in 80 per cent of suitable urban roads, but that the savings annually would be about £2.1bn in reduced accidents - on DoT estimates of £812,010 for a death and £92,570 for a serious injury.

But while the Government accepts that the 300 20mph zones have cut casualties by over a half, Mr Bowis said he could not pledge an increase in funds. The extra £1m to help fund zones would come from the existing road safety budget.

Death of a headmaster: Trial told of desperate resuscitation attempt

Teacher confronted killer face to face

CHARLIE BAIN

Headmaster Philip Lawrence met his killer in a "one-to-one confrontation" before he was punched, kicked and stabbed to death, an Old Bailey murder trial was told yesterday.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, described how Mr Lawrence, a father of four, staggered through a crowd of pupils back towards the school where he collapsed after being knifed in the chest.

"It was decided to open his chest then and there in an attempt to save his life," said Mr Bevan. "An emergency left thoracotomy was performed to allow internal cardiac massage."

"He was operated on at the hospital from 4.30pm to about midnight when it became obvious that there was no chance of survival and he was declared dead."

Earlier, Mr Bevan described how Mr Lawrence had been at the main gate of St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale, north-west London, seeing pupils off the premises



In the line of duty: Philip Lawrence and his widow Frances

for the weekend. When he noticed one of his pupils being attacked, he ran towards the fracas. "Inevitably his reasons must have been to try and find out what was going on and to prevent injury to one of his charges," said Mr Bevan.

It was then that he came face to face with the defendant - a 16-year-old boy who cannot be named for legal reasons - who had become separated from the rest of the self-styled Triad-type gang.

Mr Bevan said the head-

master "adopted a non-threatening and conciliatory stance... Even if he had made a grab for the defendant's shoulder, which is the most anyone described him doing, it was no more than merited the circumstances."

The defendant then allegedly "slapped or punched" Mr Lawrence and kicked him on the leg. Producing a knife, which was hidden in his waistband, he stabbed him once on the left side of the chest just under the left armpit. Mr Bevan added: "It was wholly unnecessary, whol-

ly unprovoked, gratuitous violence for its own sake."

The boy returned to the court "looking worried", Mr Bevan alleged, and "told the others 'I've made a mistake, I've stabbed a teacher'. When someone asked why, he said 'shut up it wasn't my fault, we better split up'". The defendant then went to an amusement arcade where he confided to a former gang member that he had stabbed a teacher. Later that night, a knife was found discarded near by.

Mr Bevan showed the court a 10-inch single-edged knife with a black about six and a half inches wide, the top of it double-edged. "Most of the cuts on Philip Lawrence's clothing had the appearance of being made by a double-edged weapon and test cuts in the laboratory using the knife produced similar cuts," he said.

The 16-year-old boy denies murder and two further charges of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and wounding with intent. A 15-year-old denies the latter two charges.

The trial continues today.

PEOPLES
P H O N E

NO LINE RENTAL

FOR A WHOLE YEAR

JUST PAY FOR THE CALLS YOU MAKE!

FREE WEEKEND BREAK ACCOMMODATION FOR TWO!

FREE CONNECTION WORTH £23.50!

FREE DELIVERY!

VODAFONE

Calls cost 20p per minute off peak (7pm - 8am Monday to Friday and all weekend), 50p per minute peak.

THE EXCLUSIVE PP800!

NO.1

IN WHAT CELLPHONE'S TOP TEN DEALS:

- 100 minutes talktime
- 22 hours standby
- Ultra Slim and lightweight
- Desktop fast charger
- Over 50,000 already sold

£99.99

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER OR FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACK, CALL NOW:

FREEPHONE 0800 10 11 12

Credit Card Ordering Hotline: Weekdays 8am - 8pm, Weekends 9am - 6pm.

Please have your credit card & this advertisement handy when you call quoting Ref: 125/9

The offer is subject to availability, status and a new standard 30-day contract. On the Economy tariff with The Peoples Phone Company plc. Dryden House, The Edge Business Centre, Humber Road, London NW2 6EW. Full written details and the terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. 0800 facility applies to BT phones.



Pause for a moment.

Find out how to secure your family's future for just 20p a day.

With all the pleasure and enjoyment your family bring, it's hard to imagine life without them or, more importantly, their life without you. You have to stop and think how would your family cope financially should anything happen to you?

For the monthly equivalent of just 20p a day, Legal & General's Family Protection Plan will ensure that those who depend on you receive a lump

FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE ON LOW COST COVER CALL FREE ON: QUOTING THE REFERENCE NUMBER A2/DJ02.

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm, Saturday/Sunday 9am - 5pm. For your protection calls will usually be recorded.

HOW LITTLE IT COULD COST YOU		
MINIMUM	TERM	PERMANENT
£44.263	15 yrs	
£90.000	15 yrs	

Based on a male non-smoker aged 30 years.

sum should you die or become terminally ill during the term you select. This valuable cover is easy to budget for as you only pay a premium for a fixed period of time, and the amount you pay each month stays the same.

The sooner you apply, the sooner you can be sure that your family's future is secure. For a free quotation call the number below. Alternatively, contact your financial adviser.

10500

Further information available on our Website <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

Just read this. We may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information please contact us at the address above. Legal & General Insurance Society Limited is a member of the Legal & General Marketing Group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSA. If you call and receive information or advice this is all solely related to Legal & General Marketing Group products. Legal & General Insurance Society Ltd. Registered in England No 14545. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Square, Victoria Street, London EC4A 3DF.

FIND OUT MORE TODAY.

LEGAL & GENERAL

For the Legal & General Assurance Society Limited, registered office: 100, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF.

Please send me a personal quotation and information pack on Legal & General's Family Protection Plan.

Name:

Address:

Tel No:

Day or Even:

Yes I am a smoker ☐ No I am not a smoker ☐

Legal & General

Ref: A2/DJ02

Bullish Ashdown vows to put the backbone into Blair



Then, suddenly the screen went white and it was over. From between the pillars strode the hero himself; a simple military man, handed the laurels of leadership, reminding us about courage and patriotism. For what seemed an age he gave it to his party straight; made them face up to some hard truths. They were wonderful, he told them. Far better than the others. Nicer. More honest. Better at things. So it would be good if they won lots of seats at the election. It is to the credit of this party, that the delegates took these difficult thoughts on the chin, and still applauded their courageous, virile leader.



Photograph: Tom Pistor

ter and improves the lives of those we serve." He clearly sees the role his party can play in the next Parliament, and the influence it can bring to bear on a Blair government, as the means of achieving that end.

Leading article, page 13

'Cheap votes' outburst as tight curbs win backing

defenders to accept responsibility for their crimes. Offers of reparation are made at meetings

Techno wizardry. Magic prices.

[illegible]

Upgrade to:	Special Price	Discount
Extra 16Mb SDRAM	£150 (£176.25 incl. VAT)	25%
Extra 16Mb SDRAM & 17" Monitor (15.65" vis)	£350 (£411.25 incl. VAT)	29%



TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724855
 Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm weekends

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل



PUNCH, EVERY FRIDAY. THE MAGAZINE THAT MIXES WITH THE WRONG CROWD. **PUNCH**

IN PUNCH THIS WEEK, THE PECULIAR MANAGEMENT STYLE OF BRITAIN'S MOST POWERFUL PRESS BARON IS REVEALED. SOMEONE OTHER THAN PRINCE CHARLES CRITICISES MODERN ARCHITECTURE. AND WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE MP EXPLAINS WHY HE'S HAD TO GIVE UP BUYING WOMEN'S CLOTHES. PUNCH, AT YOUR NEWSAGENT EVERY FRIDAY. OR CALL FREE ON 0800 592 439 FOR DETAILS OF THE SUBSCRIPTION OFFER.

IND2509

THE INDEPENDENT
CONFERENCE
stand here and start a
"Liberal Democrats"
red don't live in Middle
on the rafters? Can
tion passed at confer
against it." 2 or 3
DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAY
JACK STRAW
3min 40 secs
32 secs
27 secs
16 secs
rst as
king
IER ONE
855

news

It wasn't the Sun wot won it: official

The ability of the press to influence voting patterns has been found to be marginal, writes John Rentoul

Newspapers have no measurable effect on the way their readers intend to vote, a study has found.

Casting doubt on the Sun's claim that "It's the Sun wot won it" at the last election, research suggests that the calls last year by normally Conservative papers for John Major to go, and the move by the Sun to a less hostile posture towards Labour have had no impact on readers' political views.

John Curtice, of the University of Strathclyde, looked at the newspaper-reading habits and political views of 1,317 voters, interviewed every year between 1992 and 1995 for the British Election Panel Survey.

Readers of the Sun certainly noticed that their paper had changed its allegiance, with a

drop from 83 to 51 per cent in the proportion who believed it backed the Tories.

Other pro-Tory papers show smaller falls, with only readers of the Telegraph believing it has remained loyal to the Tories. In 1992, 82 per cent of Telegraph readers thought it backed the Tories, compared to 80 per cent in 1995.

Mirror and Guardian readers, by contrast, showed no change in their conviction that their papers supported Labour.

But the study found that Labour picked up more new supporters from readers of the Mirror than of the Sun.

One of the reasons was that Mirror readers were more likely

IT'S THE Sun WOT SWUNG IT
83,000 readers' votes forced
its to save Pound, say Tories

Gotcha: Yesterday the paper revealed its pivotal role in the Tory civil war over Europe

ly to take a pessimistic view of the state of the economy.

But generally newspapers seem to have no discernible impact on readers' images of the parties or their leaders.

The study found no difference in how the Prime Minister was rated by readers of the "rebel Tory press" (the Sun,

Mail, Times, and Star) and the "loyal press" (the Telegraph and the Express), despite the rebels' call for Mr Major to be ousted in last year's Tory leadership battle.

Similarly, there was no evidence of any link between newspaper readership and opinions about the Labour leader, "de-

spite the relatively favourable coverage which Tony Blair has received in the traditionally Tory press", Dr Curtice writes.

The findings do not necessarily confound the strategy of Alastair Campbell, the Labour leader's press secretary, of wooing the Tory press.

"It may have stopped the

Tory press playing its usual role of acting as a source of reinforcement for the Conservatives," comments Dr Curtice. Last year Mr Blair travelled to Australia as the guest of Rupert Murdoch to speak to executives of his NewsCorp global media empire.

But Dr Curtice writes: "There is little evidence to suggest that either politicians or journalists should be as preoccupied with the partisan tone of the press as they often appear to be. The changed tone of the Tory press since 1992 may have been entertaining for journalists to read and a source of some self-satisfaction for Labour's spin doctors. But... Mr Blair's



Watcha: Flashback to 1992

best friend continues to be the Daily Mirror, not the Sun. Labour has been most likely to

make converts amongst those who read the Daily Mirror and to lose friends amongst those who stop reading that paper."

He concludes that, overall, "the influence of the press is at most only a marginal one."

The effects that there are seem small, and the net effect of the partisan press appeared to be zero.

There was no difference between the swing to Labour since 1992 among readers of partisan papers, Labour and Tory, taken as a whole, and the swing among non-readers and readers of the "non-partisan press", including the Independent. Which suggests that, taken together, the partisan papers have no impact on their readers, either in a pro-Tory or a pro-Labour direction.

SWIFTCALL
LOW COST INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

call **JAPAN**
for only

40p
per min



0800 279 0800

outside UK: +44 171 488 2001

FANTASTIC PRICES AT ALL TIMES

20p per min **40p** per min **60p** per min

Australia France Ireland Germany Hong Kong Singapore Taiwan Japan South Africa India Brazil Israel

★★★★★ FREEPHONE access to our exchange
★★★★ Pre-payment ensures no bill worries
★★ Can be used from any telephone
★ No fuss-quick and easy connection

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD READY
OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY 24HRS A DAY
7 DAYS A WEEK READY TO TAKE YOUR CALL
THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE TO YOU TODAY



RENEWING YOUR
HOME INSURANCE IN OCTOBER?

free
QUOTE
free
key ring

Give us a call today and
we'll send you a quote for
the home contents policy
where you decide how much
cover you need. There's no
obligation, and we'll also give you a handy
Legal & General keyring.
with our compliments.



call free
0800 32 42 52

lines open Mon - Sun 9am - 5pm
Home Insurance cover is only available in England, Scotland,
and Wales and is subject to acceptance by underwriters.

Retiring nurses to leave NHS in turmoil

A quarter of NHS nurses could retire by the turn of the century, with those left struggling to cope with the increasing demands of patient care, it was claimed yesterday.

Only a complete U-turn on government policy will avert a crisis caused by the demand for nurses far outstripping supply, according to the Royal College of Nursing.

A major survey carried out for the RCN by the Institute for Employment Studies showed that the number of nurses retiring was set to increase massively in the next five or 10 years.

The average age of nurses was now 39, and 20 per cent were 50 or over. As many as a quarter of nurses could qualify for early and normal retirement by the millennium.

In addition, the rate at which nurses were quitting the NHS rose from 5 per cent to 6 per cent last year, with many citing poor job satisfaction as the main reason. One in five of the 6,000 nurses questioned said they expected to leave the NHS within two years.

On the supply side, intakes to pre-registration nurse education had dropped by 39 per cent since 1988. Although there were signs of this trend reversing, the effects would not be felt until the turn of the century. In the meantime, retirements were expected to increase as the workforce continued to age.

The size of the NHS registered workforce had shrunk slightly during the Nineties while a growing number of nursing posts remained unfilled. Recorded turnover - the rate at which nurses change jobs - was shown to have increased for the third successive year to 22 per cent.

At the same time there was evidence that nurses were working harder and putting in longer hours. One in five had worked more than 48 hours in the week before the survey, and the average number of overtime hours worked had risen from 3.8 last year to 5.9 hours. There had also been a decline in the proportion of nurses receiving payment or time off for excess hours worked.

An RCN spokesman said the survey revealed that staff shortages were affecting every part of the NHS. He said: "It's going to lead to those nurses left in the system working longer and harder, because they won't put patient care in jeopardy."

"There will have to be an about turn on Government policy on pay and conditions. The Government will need to recognise that one of the main reasons why people are not being attracted into nursing and are leaving is because they do not feel valued."

Yesterday, the joint negotiating council for nurses, midwives and health visitors called on their Pay Review Body to recommend a "substantial" national pay rise next year.

Christine Hancock, page 15

London Fashion Week: Supermodels paid £13,000 for launch of sports-wear collection



Mirror image: Identical twins Nina and Nishan Hindes model for British designer Marcus Constable, presenting his first solo cat-walk show as part of London Fashion Week. Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Glamorous British steal Paris's clothes

MELANIE RICKY

The American designer Tommy Hilfiger will be launching his women's sports-wear collection on Saturday as part of London Fashion Week, which begins today. It is rumoured that his models will be paid in the region of £13,000 to appear in his show, so the supermodels are in town, and London is managing to generate the kind of buzz usually reserved for the Paris *prêt à porter* shows.

Naomi Campbell is one model who has been lured by the Hilfiger fee, but she will also be supporting young designers who cannot compete in terms of funds. Antonio Berardi, the young designer about to show his third collection, will be paying his models, including Ms Campbell, in clothes.

Yesterday, Marcus Constable and Earley Palmeiro showed their first collections in off-schedule shows. All of them are St Martins graduates, keeping the tradition of London alive. They cannot give their models anything, not even clothes, but that is part of the fun.

Young British designers have been making waves in the world of fashion for years, but until recently they were lured away to the bright lights of Paris like our most famous export John Galiano. Now our most talented designers live, work and show on British soil.

Alexander McQueen, Hussein Chalayan and also Antonio Berardi are all from the UK, and it is reflected in the creativity and eclecticism of their work. Supermodels will work for them for a small fee or clothes, just for the association. The London fashion scene is currently basking in the glow of praise from American fashion bibles, *W*, and *Harper's Bazaar*.

This month, *W* proclaimed "Forget Paris and New York. Merry old London is the only place to be for the hip and happening". *Harper's Bazaar* has dedicated an eight-page fashion story to London style. Simon Ward from the British Fashion Council, however, is keeping his feet on the ground, "I feel that London is getting better all the time. A few years ago we were just showing in one tent, at the Natural History Museum. Now there are two tents and a double-decker exhibition hall, which indicates that the recession in terms of fashion is well and truly over."

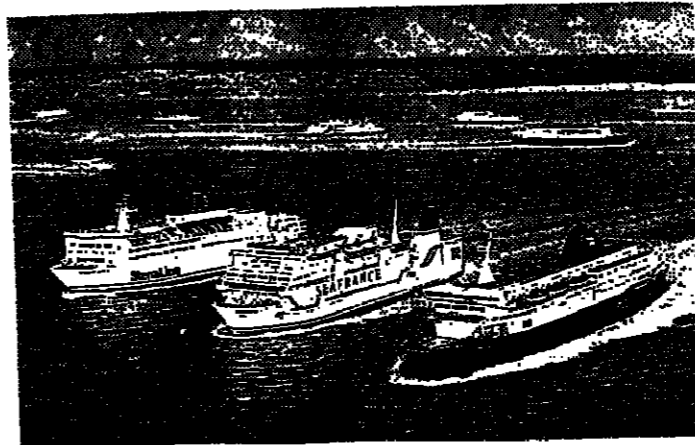
The proof of the pudding, however, will only come when the international buyers show their faces at London Fashion Week. "The designers tell me that all the buyers they have spoken to have said 'see you in London'," Ward says. This week there are enough celebrity happenings to encourage fashion press and buyers the world over to London. Thursday night sees Donna Karan holding a star-studded party to celebrate the opening of her new shop in New Bond Street. Also on Thursday Claudia Schiffer, Christy Turlington and Naomi Campbell are hosting the grand opening of their Fashion Cafe in London's Leicester Square. Guests for that evening are expected to be Liam and Noel Gallagher from Oasis, Kate Moss and a host of rock stars from Mick Hucknall to Nico Torres from Bon Jovi.

The fashion industry in this country is worth £7.6bn a year, of which £2.9bn is exported. Designer fashion represents £250m of that figure, a small percentage, but the volume and quality of those clothes speak for themselves in terms of the world market.

Naomi Campbell: Taking wages in socks or frocks

Carrier bags crammed full of choice...

RELAX and just cruise across from Dover to Calais - the shortest sea route to France. Large, luxurious car ferries with shops, restaurants and entertainment on board, plus hovercraft, provide rapid, comfortable crossings with a departure every thirty minutes. Fast on and off loading on both sides of the Channel helps to speed your journey. Instant motorway access from Calais port provides an open door to the entire European motorway network.



For a shopping day,
a relaxing stay or for immediate
access to motorway...

Calais
...a short cruise away.

DOVER/CALAIS
OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY
BY P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE,
SEAFRANCE & HOVERFERRY.

كلوا من الاصل

Architects bridge the centuries for Thames prize

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

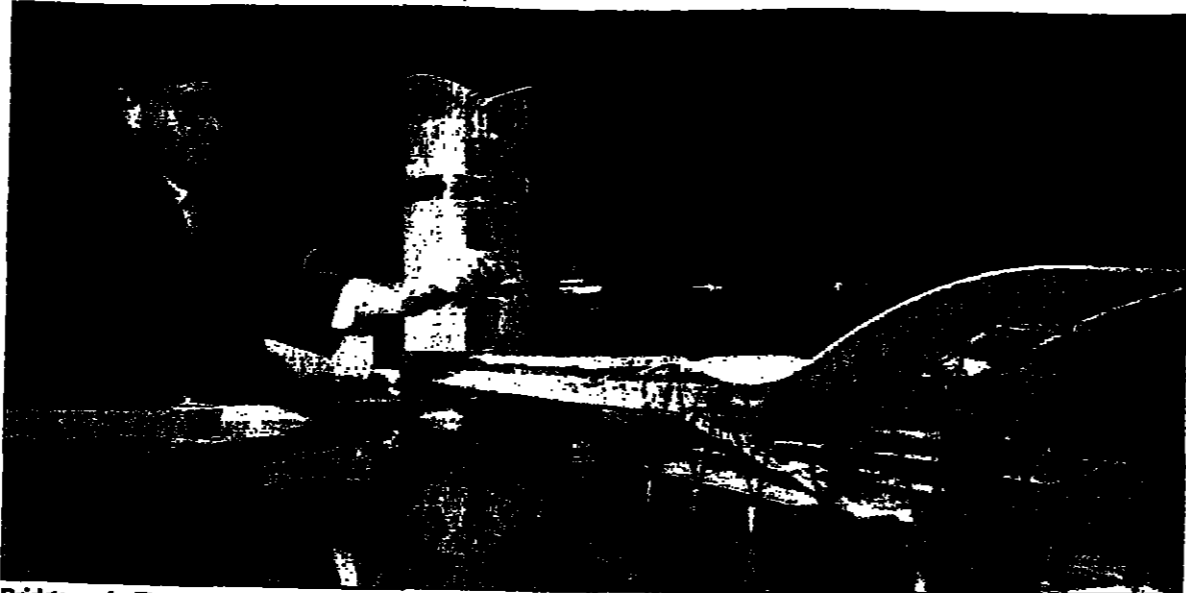
Zaha Hadid was yesterday named joint winner of a government-backed competition to build a new, inhabited bridge for London.

The move will help redeem the Iraqi-born architect's faith in the British establishment after her controversial "glass-necklace" design for the Cardiff Bay Opera House failed to win funding from the Millennium Commission. To her fury, it emerged this month that a member of her opera-house design team, Percy Thomas Partnership, had been asked to design the Wales Millennium Centre for the same site.

Ms Hadid, who won an international competition with her design, was quoted as saying the move was "a total farce".

But she was delighted to have won yesterday's competition jointly with Antoine Grumbach & Associates of France.

Seven international architects were invited by the Royal Academy to enter designs for the competition to build a new inhabited bridge over the



Bridgework: The two winning architects, Antoine Grumbach (left) with a model of his proposed garden bridge, and Zaha Hadid with her 'transparent' design



Photographs: Peter Macdliamid

Thames, from Temple Gardens on the north bank to the London Weekend Television building on the south bank. The brief was to design a structure which would incorporate sufficient buildings - hotels, cafes, restau-

rants, offices - to make it commercially viable and to interest a developer in the project.

Ms Hadid's £70m design incorporated commercial space at either end, but left the middle of the bridge empty to maintain

river views. "It had to occupy the river as a public space but at the same time... remain transparent," she said.

In contrast, Mr Grumbach's £60m design centred on the notion of expanding the Jubilee

Gardens over the river. A huge tower at one end would provide commercial space. "I wanted to make a promenade over the water," Mr Grumbach said.

Although the two architects share the honours, any of the

seven designs submitted - or more than one - could be chosen by a developer.

John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has thrown his weight behind the project. "London's river is

our most under-valued asset and the time has come to value it properly," he said yesterday.

The last inhabited bridge over the Thames was destroyed in the mid-18th century. Originally a Roman pontoon bridge,

it joined Southwark with the City and was known for displaying traitors' heads on poles. All seven designs go on display from tomorrow until 18 December in the Royal Academy's Living Bridges exhibition.

Finn wins race for Rattle's baton

JOJO MOYES

A Finnish conductor will succeed Sir Simon Rattle, who quits in two years time, as leader of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The choice of the relatively low-profile Sakari Oramo comes as a surprise, as Mr Rattle's 21-year-old protégé, Daniel Harding, was widely touted to succeed him. Sir Simon was an unknown 25-year-old when he was appointed in 1980.

Mr Oramo, 31, a professional conductor for three years, is co-principal conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and his initial contract as principal conductor and artistic adviser will be for three years.

"It was an unexpected surprise and an honour to be invited to become principal conductor of the CBSO after only my second visit to them in July this year," Mr Oramo said yesterday. "I am looking forward to the challenge of shaping the future of this marvellous orchestra in my own way while maintaining the legendary good work of my predecessor."

Mr Oramo, who has conducted the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra twice before, will conduct at least 30 concerts a year.

His rivals at the top of a "very long list" were either unavailable or unsuitable, said Edward Smith, the orchestra's chief executive. "Sakari was on the list and when he came in July it was quite clear to everyone on the committee that this was the ideal man to take over."

One factor that apparently gave Mr Oramo an edge was the enthusiasm of the players after his two concerts with them, the first in May last year. "By the time he had conducted



Sakari: Popular choice of orchestra members

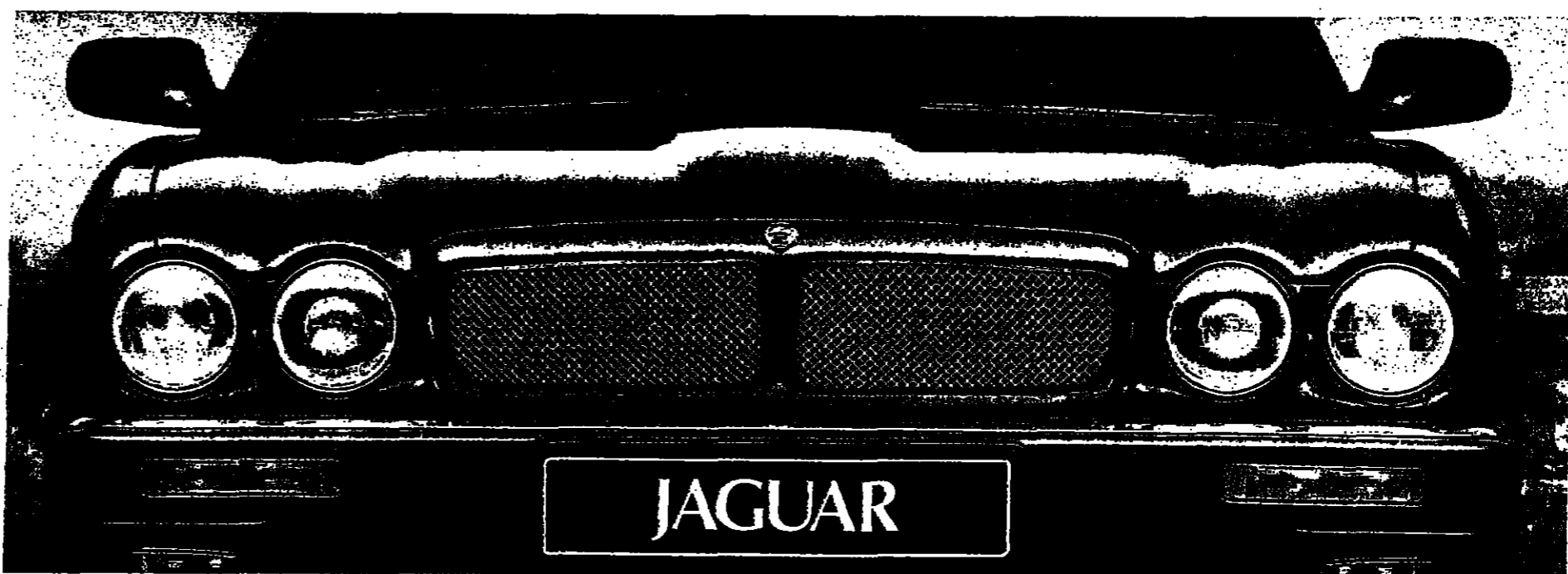
the orchestra on his second visit there was an extraordinary fusion of opinion that he was just the right person to succeed Simon," said Peter Thomas, the orchestra leader. "Everyone in the orchestra is very motivated to make a success of this splendid new relationship."

Mr Oramo lives in Germany, where his wife, the soprano Anu Komsi, is contracted to the Bremen Opera until 1998. The couple have a five-year-old son.

He made his professional conducting debut with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra at a few hours' notice in January 1993, when the scheduled conductor was taken ill. Since then he has conducted all the major Scandinavian orchestras and has forthcoming concerts in Germany, Switzerland and Britain.

The charismatic Sir Simon has built a reputation at the CBSO by mixing "difficult" contemporary music with favourites such as Elgar. He announced in February that he would quit the role of music director when his contract expired in 1998.

YOU DON'T MOVE AHEAD SO DRAMATICALLY BY SITTING ON YOUR REPUTATION.



JAGUAR

THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY JAGUAR XJ SERIES.

When developing their new range of luxury cars, many manufacturers adhere to the old adage



Advanced Jaguar AJ16 supercharged engine.

"If it's not broken, don't fix it." They simply add a few new knobs, and relaunch their cars as 'updated'.

When developing the latest XJ Series, the technicians at Jaguar's Engineering Centre preferred to stick to the principle of it may not be 'broken', but new technology means it can always be improved. The result is a range that ushers Jaguar into a new era. One where the very latest in automotive design and technology have been employed without sacrificing the spirit of the Jaguar legend. The body may be constructed by robots, but the finished article is the embodiment of the designers' original passion.

Beneath the sleek, flowing skin of every new Jaguar lies a host of technical advances. The heart of the beast is the Advanced Jaguar AJ16 engine, delivering outstanding power and performance on demand.

Such a refined and sensitive piece of engineering needs to be carefully monitored and adjusted to optimise both performance and economy and this task is carried out by a highly sophisticated engine



4-wheel sensing anti-lock braking.

management system. With such performance at your disposal, it's imperative to be in control at all times and this control is supplied by the speed-sensitive power steering and four-wheel sensing anti-lock braking systems. It is now a while since the XJ Series was launched and yet the world's motoring press continue to enthuse about almost every single advance Jaguar's engineers have made, which fully justifies their use of over one hundred pre-production prototypes to test and perfect these innovations. As an overall package, the Jaguar XJ Series has been voted 'Best Luxury Car' in

both 1995 and 1996 by Fleet News, Fleet Car and Complete Car. (The Germans also showed their appreciation in Auto Motor Und Sport. The XJ Series won 'Best Imported Luxury Car,' again in both years.)

The new XJ Executive makes true advances in luxury, yet offers true value for money.

Automatic transmission, leather upholstery, climate control and alloy wheels are all included as standard. We even go so far as to offer a 3 year/60,000 mile manufacturer's warranty.

As always though, the only way to fully appreciate the dramatic new technical advancements of the Jaguar XJ Series is to take our reputation for a test drive.

For more information or to arrange a test drive, please call freephone 0800 70 80 60 or fax your contact details direct to 0171 671 6968.



DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.



The Jaguar XJ Series saloon from £31,620. Model featured supercharged Jaguar XJR from £49,570. Manufacturer's recommended retail prices, correct at time of going to press, including cost of delivery, number plates, a full tank of petrol and £140 for 12 months' road fund licence.

DAILY POEM

Trying Hard To Be Normal (for Spike Milligan)

By Adrian Mitchell

I bought myself a hairbrush
A Military Hairbrush it turned out
It came in a box marked Military Hairbrush
I opened the box
And took out the Military Hairbrush
But there was still something left in the box
I shook the box and brought out a brochure
It was printed in every colour that exists
The brochure showed me with diagrams
And a text in seven languages
How to brush my hair with the Military Hairbrush
I was about to throw the box away
When I realised there was something else left in the box
I shook the box and out dropped
A smaller brush
A wooden brush a humble brush
Certainly not a military brush
Just a brush
I looked for an explanation in the brochure
And found that this was the brush
With which to brush
The Military Hairbrush

Adrian Mitchell, like Roger McGough, Brian Patten and Adrian Henri, is essentially a performance poet, but with a technique and delivery that transfers well into the published medium. Bloodaxe published *Blue Coffee: Poems 1965-1996* earlier this year. Mitchell is a maverick: anarchic, free-wheeling, furious and funny, and his collection is a treat.

international

Rivals set to call for resignation if doctors rule out heart bypass for Russian President

Kremlin fights for Yeltsin's survival

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday began preparing the ground for a battle to keep Boris Yeltsin in office even if his surgeons decide today that it is too dangerous to go ahead with a heart bypass – a decision that would turn him into a lame duck president.

As concern over the President's health reached a crescendo, Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, sought to dampen speculation that the President may soon quit, saying such suggestions were "out of the question now".

The Prime Minister – who would stand in as president until another election, if Mr Yeltsin leaves – was speaking after his weekly meeting with the President, who spent an eleventh day in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital awaiting news of his fate.

Today Mr Yeltsin's team of top surgeons will decide whether he is fit enough to have a bypass operation, and if so, when. Should they conclude that it is too risky, Mr Yeltsin's future will be thrown into doubt, as he concedes he cannot run the country properly without having the operation.

There have only been half-hearted calls for Mr Yeltsin's resignation, mostly from the Communist camp, since his top surgeon, Renat Atchurin, revealed the operation may have to be postponed or cancelled, and that the President had another heart attack shortly before July's elections.

Yesterday Mr Atchurin said the operation would not be put off, but could be postponed for weeks. But his back-track looks suspiciously as if he was pressured by the Kremlin, which is eager to demonstrate

that Mr Yeltsin, who was shown briefly on Russian TV, looking unwell, is still in charge.

Demands for his resignation would multiply if the operation is called off. Though vague, article 92 of the constitution says he must leave office if he is "persistently unable" to perform his duties because of ill health.

Mr Chernomyrdin's remarks coincided with a publicity offensive by the Kremlin, which said Mr Yeltsin was working on up to 70 documents a day, and was abreast with key international developments. The President's press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, denied a *Financial Times* report saying Mr Yeltsin has had a stroke and can only work for 15 minutes a day. However, he conceded sometimes Mr Yeltsin completes his paperwork in half an hour.

Mr Yeltsin's bleak outlook worsened yesterday when General Alexander Kozlov, the former chief of the presidential guard and Mr Yeltsin's close confidant, made clear he was now backing his fellow general, Alexander Lebed, Russia's security tsar, as the next president.

"I don't miss Yeltsin," said the headline general who was fired in June. In an interview with *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, he claimed to have evidence that top government officials salted away millions of dollars in secret bank accounts. Mr Lebed has appeared happy to be courted by the general.

The Yeltsin administration's efforts to forestall calls for another election are scarcely surprising. The latest poll placed Mr Lebed ahead by 19 points, with 34 per cent. Behind him came Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader on 15 per cent, while Mr Chernomyrdin had 9 per cent.



Market forces: Brokers trading shares at the Moscow stock exchange yesterday as shares were hit by fears over Boris Yeltsin's health. Photograph: AP

Lebed denies threatening the West

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Alexander Lebed, favourite as Russia's next president, was last night frantically distancing himself from an interview in which he declared that Russia would take economic revenge against the US and Germany if NATO goes ahead with plans to expand into Eastern Europe.

The security chief, who has a reputation for being outspoken, was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph* saying the two countries "huge interests" in Russia would "suffer directly" if expansion plans succeeded. "We will find ways to hit the pro-

ponents of these policies where it hurts," he reportedly said.

Such remarks will have caused alarm in the West, which will see them as further evidence that he will adopt an anti-Western foreign policy if he wins the Kremlin's top job. Ever since Mr Yeltsin appointed him Secretary of the Security Council in June, Western observers have been trying to work out if the retired two-star general is a hardline or moderate nationalist.

It will also cause surprise, as he has recently taken a more relaxed view of NATO's ambitions, pointing out that they are free to squander their money by expanding, as Russia has no plans

to threaten countries outside its borders.

In the article published yesterday, Mr Lebed's tone appeared to have changed sharply. This was despite recent signs that Russia is prepared to negotiate with NATO, even though it remains formally opposed to its expansion.

Mr Lebed also reportedly said that Germany's determination to see NATO and the EU push eastwards would place Central and Eastern Europe under German domination, and suggested "post-unification policy-makers" were "building a Fourth Reich". He blasted the Americans, accusing them of at-

tempting to control world trade "by diktat from Washington" and of acting "beyond belief, beyond logic" in bombing Iraq.

Yesterday, after being bombarded by inquiries, his press service tried to distance itself from the article by denying he had granted an interview to the *Daily Telegraph*, and saying the "facts quoted have nothing to do with what he has ever told reporters". It issued a statement describing the interview as a "fraud", and "a provocation... organised against a person who has stopped the Chechen war".

Sources at the *Daily Telegraph* said the interview with Mr Lebed was authentic.



General Lebed: 'Russia will hit West where it hurts'

Bardot's book stirs cries of racism

RHIANNON LEWIS

The publication of the former actress Brigitte Bardot's memoirs in France yesterday caused indignation and brought accusations of racism because of her support for the far-right National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, and her comments about the Muslim community in France.

A leading anti-racism campaigner, Monclaud Aounit, declared that "Bardot" has a discourse of hatred which is in allegiance with the ideas and ideology of the National Front.

She had, in fact, told the French daily *Le Figaro* that she "wholeheartedly" shared Le Pen's ideas "as far as the growth of this terrifying immigration is concerned".

Mr Aounit's Movement Against Racism and Friendship Between Races is convinced that her comments are serious enough to incite discrimination and violence against immigrants. They add extra weight to the legal action launched by the organisation against Bardot for the "provocation of racial hatred" following an article written by Bardot in *Le Figaro* in April.

In the case, which is due to be heard by the Paris courts on 19 December, MRAP is claiming 100,000 French francs (£55,000) for moral prejudice against the actress.

Bardot's support of the National Front may come as no surprise. She is married to one of Le Pen's aides, Bernard d'Ormale. But her warmth towards Le Pen has shocked many. In her book, she describes him as "a charming and intelligent man who is outraged by certain things, just like me".

She first met Le Pen in the Fifties when visiting victims of the Algerian war. "I don't think people should make him out to be evil," she told *Elle* magazine. "From what I have seen... he is very kind."

While she stresses that she does not share all his ideas, she proudly proclaims her nationalistic tendencies. "I have the courage to stand by my ideas," she asserted. "Either people like it or they don't. And if they don't, then hard luck."

BIG savings rates.

	£500- £4,999	£5,000- £9,999	£10,000- £24,999	£25,000- £49,999	£50,000- £99,999
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.50%	4.75%	5.50%	5.65%	5.75%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	2.75%	3.05%	3.80%	4.30%	4.50%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	3.10%	3.85%	4.60%	4.85%
Yorkshire Building Society Key 90 Plus	N/A	N/A	4.05%	4.50%	5.00%

All rates are gross* and correct at 16th September 1996.

Are your savings growing too slowly? Then you should be saving with Direct Line. Take a look at the table and you'll see that our rates are higher than these building society 90 day accounts. What's more, with Direct Line you don't have to give 90 days notice because we offer instant access. So if you want more money for your money you know who to call.

0181 667 1121
LONDON0161 833 1121
MANCHESTER0141 221 1121
GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND20

Internet address: <http://www.directline.co.uk>

*Savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 220 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 3SA, a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £18,000 (or £33,000 if greater). Further details of the scheme are available on request. *The gross rate is the rate paid without any deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payments of interest. For your added security, all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc.

Dixons

2 MONTHS FREE LINE RENTAL†

FIZZ MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 76 minutes talktime/45 hours standby time.
- 99 name and number memory.
- Call timer facility.
- PIN number security.

£9.99

*When you connect to Cellnet Digital Services. Subject to status. Not redeemable for full range of tariffs, plans and services. View full details in monthly 11 and 12.



Cellnet Digital

- Pay-as-you-go billing.
- Calls cost from 20p per minute (week).
- 20p per minute (off-peak) or Regular Caller Plan.
- Call waiting and divert.
- Coverage across 42 countries worldwide, with more planned.
- 85% UK population coverage.
- Digital quality and security.
- Connection just £35.25.
- †On selected phones only.

Panasonic

G350 MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 80 minutes talktime/18 hours standby time.
- 50 name and number memory.
- Caller display – see who is calling before you answer.

£9.99

FREE IN-CAR ADAPTOR

MOTOROLA

7500 MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 80 minutes talktime/18 hours standby time.
- 100 name and number memory.
- 1 touch 'turbo' dialling.
- Security lock function.
- In-Store Price £28.99.

£4.99

NEC

G8 MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 120 minutes talktime/24 hours standby time.
- 50 memory locations.
- Call timer facility.
- Integrated clock/alarm and calendar.
- Security lock function.

£9.99

SUPPORTS CALLER DISPLAY

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

هكذا من الأصل

Bosnia election fraud hidden by OSCE figures

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

The Balkan tradition of rigging elections has received a new lease of life from a most unexpected source – the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Apparently, in a belated and unconvincing effort to demonstrate that Bosnia's elections on 14 September were not riddled with fraud, the OSCE has changed its estimate of the size of the Bosnian electorate. The effect has been to conceal evidence that hundreds of thousands of ballots were illegally cast.

Before the elections, the OSCE put the total electorate at 2.92 million. But according to calculations supplied by a respected monitoring organisation, the International Crisis Group (ICG), about 259,000 Bosnian war refugees did not register to vote.

Another 381,000 who registered did not cast ballots. The maximum number of people who voted should, therefore, have been about 2.3 million.

However, according to preliminary final results issued last Monday, almost 2.62 million people cast ballots for Bosnia's three-man collective presidency. The OSCE abruptly announced that it was changing its estimate of the total Bosnian electorate to 3.2 million.

Even this would imply a

turnout of 81.8 per cent in the presidential vote, well above the 74 per cent who voted in Bosnia's last pre-war election in 1990.

"A comparison of figures suggests the turnout on 14 September was a mathematical impossibility," the ICG said in a report. "We have no evidence to suggest [major] fraud, but the discrepancies cast serious doubt on the validity of the elections."

Western officials who closely followed the election said they estimated that at least 200,000 votes had been fraudulently cast. They said the perpetrators were officials and supporters of the ruling Muslim, Serb and Croat parties, who either stuffed ballot boxes or falsified counts in order to secure victory for their parties.

The Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA), Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) and Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) each scored thumping victories in the respective areas of Bosnia under their control.

In the Muslim case, the fraud was sufficient to ensure that Alija Izetbegovic squeaked through to win the chairmanship of the three-man presidency. Without the fraud, this important post would have gone to Momcilo Krajisnik, the Bosnian Serb nationalist who campaigned on a platform of rejecting the Dayton peace settlement and uniting his region with Serbia.

Leaders sign nuclear test ban

DAVID USBORNE
New York

Wielding a pen that was used by John F Kennedy 33 years ago to sign a first treaty to curb the testing of nuclear weapons, President Bill Clinton yesterday became the first world leader to commit ink to the newly negotiated Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty that aims to outlaw testing altogether and for ever.

Mr Clinton, who was in New York to address the General Assembly of the United Nations, was followed at the CTBT signing ceremony by ministers from around the world, including the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and ministers from France, Russia and China. As many as 65 nations were expected to sign the document at the UN.

Mr Clinton used his speech to the General Assembly to herald the new treaty as the "longest-sought, hardest-fought prize in nuclear disarmament history". But he also urged common action to practise "zero-tolerance" in combating the new dangers facing the world, including international terrorism and the trafficking of drugs, and to pursue reform at the UN.

Even until recently there had been fears that the test ban treaty was in danger of unravelling because of opposition from India, which complains that the treaty fails to set a date for total nuclear disarmament. The treaty was finally opened for signature by a majority vote in the General Assembly on 10 September. Technically, it cannot become international law until all 44 nations known to have some nuclear capability, including India, give the document their signatures.

While suggesting that the signatures delivered yesterday represented a "glorious step forward" that will automatically create an "international norm" against further tests, Mr Clinton appealed to India, which has not conducted a test since 1974, to sign the treaty.

Of the treaty, Mr Clinton said: "Some have complained that it does not deliver a mandate for total nuclear disarmament by a date certain. I would say to them, do not forsake the benefits of this achievement by ignoring the tremendous progress that we have made towards that day."

Mr Rifkind echoed Mr Clinton, appealing for everyone to sign the document. "It is the sovereign right of every state to decide whether or not to be bound by international agreements. But it is our firm conviction that this treaty is in the interests of all, and I urge all states to give it their full support."

Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Prime Minister of Norway, told the assembly: "In the annals of history, it will be told that nuclear testing happened over a period of 40 years in the twentieth century and then never again."

The fruit of years of often tortuous negotiation, the CTBT should be the definitive offspring of two previous attempts to curb the practice of testing. President Kennedy in 1963 signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, which outlawed all tests in the atmosphere, in space or underwater. It was followed by the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, which limited the size of explosions that were permitted even underground.

Mr Clinton's speech was delivered against a background of America's continuing failure to pay \$1.9bn in unpaid dues to the UN and of Washington's avowed intent to block the re-election of Boutros Boutros-Ghali to a second term as Secretary-General.

Mr Clinton insisted the "majority of Americans support the UN". But in a reference to the hostile ranks of Republicans on Capitol Hill, he went on: "Unfortunately some Americans... ignore what the UN has done, ignore the benefits of co-operation, ignore our inter-dependence with all of you in charting a better future." He avoided all mention of Mr Boutros-Ghali.



Friendly gathering: Bill Clinton (left) with Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the UN yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

Balkan peace force tops Nato agenda

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

The future of the Bosnian peace-keeping force after the Nato mandate expires on 20 December will be top of the agenda at today's Nato meeting in Bergen, Norway.

The 16 Nato defence ministers are joined by their Russian counterpart, General Igor Rodionov, as they also discuss which East European countries will be the first to join Nato in 1999 and plans to restructure the Alliance.

Ministers will try to reassure Russia about Nato's expansion, although Russia's security chief, Alexander Lebed, remains resolutely opposed to expansion and is threatening economic retaliation if it takes place.

The Bergen meeting will shape proposals for a new "charter" governing relations between Russia and the Alliance, for Nato restructuring

– which must take place in parallel with enlargement – and for the future of international involvement in Bosnia. Final arrangements for a follow-on force in Bosnia (Fo-For) will be confirmed at a conference in London in December. But the most crucial issue – what it is supposed to do – will be discussed in Bergen.

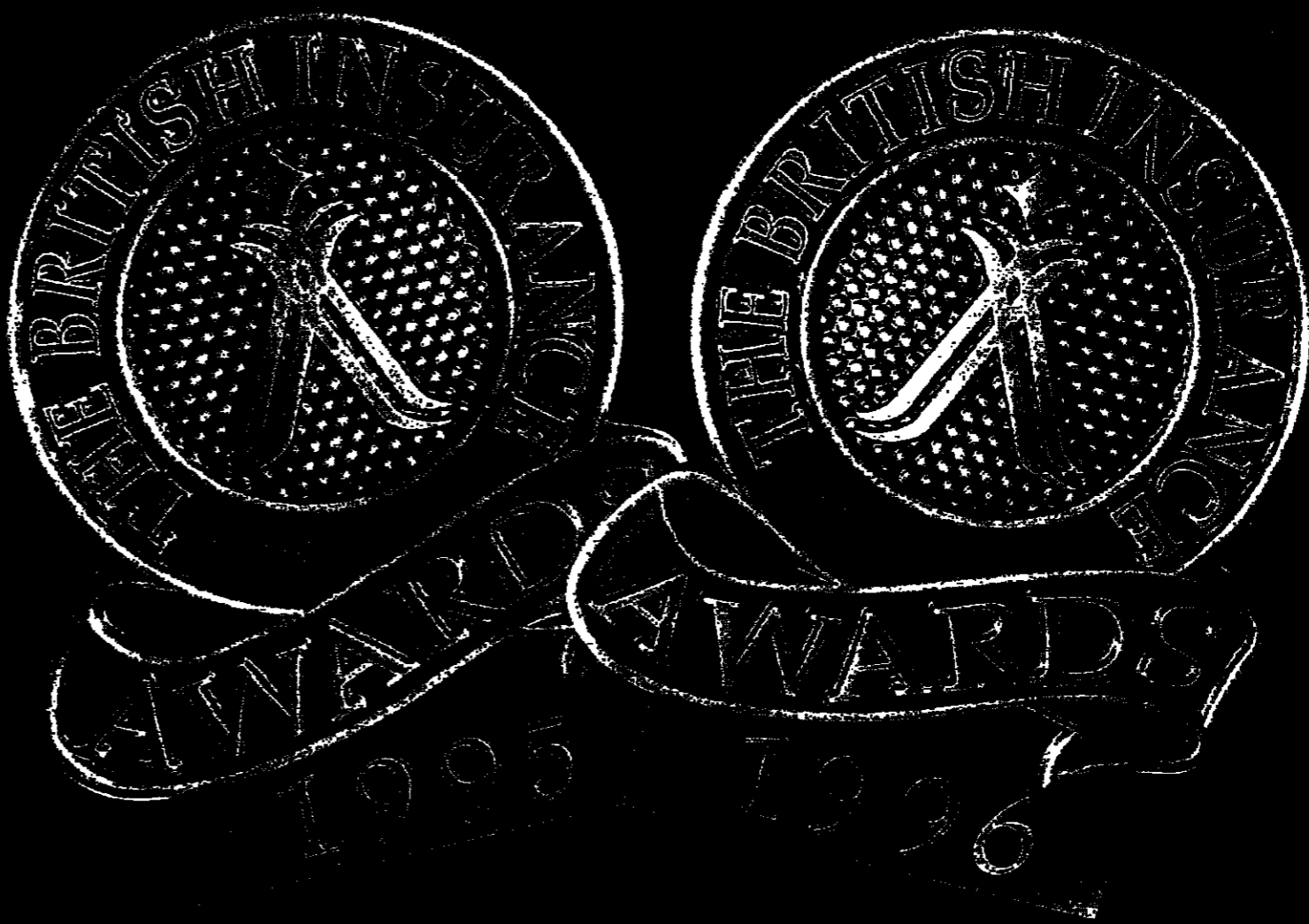
Nato and Russia will begin this morning with the international peace force in Bosnia, I-For. Plans to replace it with a smaller 20,000-strong force are well advanced, and on Monday the MoD announced that a British lieutenant-general, Roddy Cordy-Simpson, would be deputy commander of Operation Joint Endeavour, as the follow-on force will be called. It is likely that the international community will "certify" the validity of the Bosnian elections on Sunday. Once Bosnia has a "certified" government – however dubious the elections were

– the international community will have to ask its permission to maintain a presence in Bosnia after 20 December. Unless it wants another war, the Bosnian government is likely to accede.

Defence sources said the ministers meeting at Bergen would discuss several missions for Fo-For. The basic task of I-For – separating the former warring factions – was a success, and any follow-on force would be there primarily to back up civilian reconstruction.

This afternoon, ministers will discuss Nato's "adaptation" to the new world order, which involves a dramatic reduction in the number of Nato command headquarters, from 67 to nearer 30. Tomorrow, ministers are likely to decide which East European countries will receive invitations in the spring to join Nato by April 1999. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are the favourites.

UNLIKE OTHER INSURANCE COMPANIES, WE DON'T CLAIM WE'RE THE BEST.



BUT THE EXPERTS DO.

Sun Alliance Connections has been voted Claims Team of the Year by the British Insurance Industry two years in a row. Proof indeed that, in the event of a claim, insurance is more dedicated to sorting out your problems fast.

Day or night we're on call. We can send approved tradesmen straight round to do urgent repairs. We can deliver replacement

goods usually within a couple of days. Or get a cheque direct to your door. And we deal with most claims with a single letter or phone call.

You can get £15,000 contents cover from just £5 a month – and £50,000 buildings cover from £10 a month. So whether or not you make a claim, you can be sure of a great deal.

CALL DIRECT ON
0800 300 800

QUOTE REF: RHRP
CONNECTIONS
SUNALLIANCE

Stay in touch with no running costs.

ONLY £59.99

PAGEONE Minicall

KEEPS YOU IN TOUCH WHEN YOU'RE OUT AND ABOUT

- NO monthly bills ever
- FREE connection
- NO contracts
- Nationwide coverage

AVAILABLE FROM: ARNOLD, CURRY'S, DIXONS, JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP, TALKLAND, TANDY, THE LINK, PEOPLE'S PHONE, SPECTRUM, AND AUTHORISED DEALERS.

FreeCall 0500 505 505 anytime.

PAGEONE COMMUNICATIONS

Calls made to remote pages are charged at call by the second, at the economy rate and at all other times. Payphones, mobile phones, pagers and other networks using prevailing rates and may be subject to network availability.

Jerusalem tunnel sparks Arab fury

ERIC SILVER
Jerusalem

Palestinian shop-keepers in the old walled city of Jerusalem rolled down their shutters yesterday in protest at Israel's completion of a 400-yard archaeological tunnel which passes under the Jewish Wailing Wall under the Muslim quarter and comes out in the Christian Via Dolorosa. Arab youths clashed with police and threw stones at Jews praying at the Wall.

Yasser Arafat summoned his Palestinian cabinet into emergency session last night amid demands to boycott the next round of peace negotiations, due to begin tomorrow. The Palestinians' chief negotiator, Saeb Erakat, warned the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that he was pushing Israelis and Palestinians towards confrontation and disaster. "Such

actions," Dr Erakat told *The Independent*, "don't leave a peace process to speak about. The policy of this Israeli government is the *fait accompli*. Mr Netanyahu thinks the peace process is peace for the Israelis, but not for the Palestinians and the other Arabs. He is not treating us as partners. He is telling us we can go to hell."

Israel's Religious Affairs Ministry began excavating the controversial tunnel in 1968, a year after Israeli troops conquered the Old City, and finished digging in 1985. A door was cut at the Via Dolorosa end three years ago, but the then Labour government kept it sealed for fear of provoking the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and religious parties authorised it to be opened after the Yom Kippur fast on Monday night. The door will serve as the exit to a tourist and

pilgrim route, displaying Jewish, Muslim and early-Christian masonry along a buried extension of the retaining wall Herod built for his Jewish Temple.

The oldest structure dates back to the Hasmonean kings in the second century BC.

The Palestinians have consistently opposed the excavations. Muslim authorities feared the Jews were trying to take over the Temple Mount from underneath. The victorious Israeli defence minister, Moshe Dayan, deliberately left the Mount in Muslim hands after the 1967 war. In fact, as Dan Bahat, a former Jerusalem district supervisor of archaeology, said recently, "There are not, and never have been, any excavations on or under the Temple Mount." Palestinians were also worried about damage to medieval Muslim buildings still standing above the tunnel. None has been destroyed, but

some have suffered cracks. Unesco has endorsed the Palestinian view.

The Israeli timing looks like another example of Mr Netanyahu's left hand not knowing, or perhaps not caring, what the right hand is doing. On the eve of his maiden visit to Britain, France and Germany, the tunnel-opening threatens to deepen European doubts about the new regime's commitment to the peace process.

It will also encourage Egypt and Jordan, the two Arab signatories to the treaties, to keep their distance. Cairo's criticism sharpened on Monday, when the Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister, Fathi Shazli, said Mr Netanyahu needed a psychiatrist to treat his "sick fears on security". In Jordan, Crown Prince Hassan postponed a visit to Israel, planned for next month. Amman did not want to be seen as Mr Netanyahu's only Arab friend.



Digging In: An Orthodox Jew stoned at the Wailing Wall by Palestinians protesting at the completion of the pilgrim tunnel

BT cut 20% off national evening calls.



5 minute national weekday evening call	Before 8th October	After 8th October	With Friends & Family	With Friends & Family and PremierLine
	30p	24p	21p	18p

TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU COULD SAVE RING THE NUMBER BELOW.

October 8th. Massive price cuts. BT Freefone 0800 003 800

5p MINIMUM CHARGE PER CALL. DIRECT DIALED CALLS ONLY. EXCLUDES CALLS TO MOBILES, BT PUBLIC PAYPHONES AND BT CHARGECARD CALLS. FRIENDS & FAMILY NOT AVAILABLE WITH THE LIGHT USER SCHEME. DISCOUNTS START FROM CUSTOMER'S NEXT AVAILABLE BILL. PREMIERLINE SUBSCRIPTION IS £5 PER QUARTER.

significant shorts

Call for castration of sex offenders

Senior German politicians called for the compulsory castration of sex offenders yesterday, after the abduction and brutal murder of a seven-year-old girl at the weekend. Natalie Astner was kidnapped on her way to school last Friday in the Bavarian village of Epfach. The chief suspect, a 27-year-old electrician, confessed to kidnap and murder and led police to her naked body in a nearby river. The accused is a known child molester, and the public were horrified to discover he had been released last year from prison nearly two years before his rape sentence was due to expire. Police confirmed the girl had been abused before being strangled. "We must make use of all legal possibilities to protect our children," said Bavaria's Prime Minister, Edmund Stoiber, who announced that Bavaria would back Draconian punishments for sexual offenders. In Bonn, the federal youth minister, Claudia Nolte, urged "chemical castration" for rapists. *Imre Karacs - Bonn*

Peter Graf to stay in jail during trial

Peter Graf, the father of the world No 1 woman tennis player, Steffi Graf, was ordered to stay in jail for the duration of his trial. Mr Graf, accused of concealing Steffi's earnings from the German tax authorities, has already been in prison for a year. "To lift the detention order would seriously endanger the trial," the judges ruled, alluding to the possibility that Mr Graf would skip bail. The Graf's financial adviser, Joachim Eckardt, must also stay inside for the duration of the trial, expected to last until early January. Mr Graf and Mr Eckardt are accused of evading nearly 20 million marks of taxes on Steffi's earnings between 1989 and 1993. *Imre Karacs - Bonn*

Simitis sticks by his team

The Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis kept the backbone of his economic team when he named his new socialist cabinet but chose a different defence minister to oversee plans to



US astronaut says goodbye to Mir

The space shuttle *Atlantis* left Russia's orbiting *Mir* station on Monday night carrying the astronaut Shannon Lucid. *Atlantis* and *Mir* formed the shape of a crucifix as they passed over Australia (above), before the shuttle undocked and slowly backed away. The 240-mile-high parting over the Ural Mountains brought Lucid one step closer to home. *Atlantis* is due to return to Earth tomorrow concluding her record-breaking stay of 188 days in space. *AP - Houston*

beef up the military. Yannis Papandoniout retained his post as national economy minister as well as being given the finance ministry. Simitis's boldest move was to remove Gerassimos Arsenis, an old-guard socialist, from the defence ministry and replace him with Akis Tsohatzopoulos. He challenged Simitis for the party leadership in June, and lost, but has since strongly supported the new premier. *Reader - Athens*

Belgian mayor on fraud charge

The mayor of the Belgian city of Sint Niklaas, a leading official of the Benelux economic union, was arrested on charges of defrauding the EU. Mayor Lieven Lenaerts was accused of using false accounting to secure up to 15 million francs (£300,000) in EU funding for an organization called the Union of European Middle Classes. Belgian anti-fraud investigators suspect Mr Lenaerts, president of the organisation, used the money for himself. *AP - Brussels*

Kurds kidnap tourists

Kurdish rebels kidnapped an Iranian and two German tourists in southeastern Turkey, a Turkish newspaper reported. The rebels stopped a passenger bus near Bingol province and took away the foreigners after conducting an identity check early on Monday. *AP - Ankara*

هكذا من الأصل

Paddy must be honest about the voters, too

Leaders' speeches at party conferences are usually testimony to the craftsmanship of aides rather than revivals of the lost art of political rhetoric. A brief Cicero impression is bound together with a few lines fit for an excerpt on the evening news bulletins, a few jokes (Paddy Ashdown made a good one yesterday about dentists and the Labour Party) and a Theme. Ostensibly the Liberal Democrat leader's Theme was patriotism. All the nice voters love a soldier-in-a-boat, and he is surely right in calculating that the Liberal Democrats' brand of inclusive, international-minded patriotism is made a lot easier to swallow when audiences are gently reminded of his military record.

Mr Ashdown does a masterly job, moreover, of stripping the Tories of their pretensions to be the patriotic party. He did not even have to invoke Dr Johnson: all you need to nowadays is refer to one of those nefarious anti-European speeches by the Secretary of State for Defence. Let the Tories in their xenophobic, Poudjastri stripes be the (English) nationalist party. A true patriot would not pander to the Tory press by pretending that love of country depends on hating others.

Good anti-Government knockabout of which, doubtless, a lot more is to be heard next week from Labour in Blackpool. Ashdown patriotism consists, by contrast, in faith in a set of national

virtues ranging from fairness and concern for underdogs to bloody-minded resolution to see hard tasks through. There were indeed times yesterday when Paddy Ashdown, when he wasn't Harold Wilson invoking the Dunkirk spirit, sounded suspiciously like a refined version of Morris Cerullo, able to see the good things "hidden away in the hearts of a million individuals".

The "moral majority" means, for Tories and American right-wingers, a glowering invisible nation, resenting policies foisted on them by liberals. For Mr Ashdown the moral majority is something very different: it is the good, liberal-minded (though not often Liberal-voting) people whose progressive instincts are crushed because of lack of leadership from Westminster. They wish for more and better education; they want their politicians to speak truth even about marginal rates of income tax; and so on. It is a beguiling picture of a middle England which recycles its waste before cycling to work. Perhaps things are so in Yeovil. But for the country at large it is a wishful picture. From it springs a dubious conception of the kind of representative politics that is available in turn-of-the-century Britain.

None of this should detract from Mr Ashdown's substantive points, especially his appeal for constitutional reform and his plea for greater fiscal honesty. The public finances are in a



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-945 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

mess. Decisions about government revenues (taxes) need to be taken now if the balance between likely spending and income is not to move even further out of kilter as the century ends.

The Liberal Democrats are right, too, that no amount of fiddling with income support and family credit can substantially increase the work incentive for those facing a choice between a half life on benefit and low-paid jobs that can leave them worse off. A dramatic financial gesture is needed, such as lifting the amount that can be earned free of tax. That, of course, benefits all taxpayers, and social justice

demands that it be compensated by increased taxes on higher earners. The Liberal Democrats say that a rate of 50 per cent on those earning more than £100,000 a year would be enough to pay for their fiscal reforms. The numbers are arguable, but they deserve credit for being up-front about the necessity.

But it is at that point that Mr Ashdown's central argument about the essential goodness and fairness of the bulk of British people comes unstuck. If they were the paragons he implies, why have so many voted Tory for so long? The response, that political outcomes are untrustworthy because non-

proportional voting prevents the popular will getting translated into Westminster representation, is not entirely convincing. The fact is, as Tony Blair recognises, the political culture has shifted in recent years. Up to a strictly limited point, we have all accepted a large part of the Thatcherite agenda. It is going to take a lot more persuasion than Mr Ashdown offered yesterday to convince the comfortable majority that they should pay more tax.

Mr Ashdown toys with a possibly dangerous Manichean notion of political life. Westminster, he infers, is a sink, a den of dishonesty and fudge. The People, by contrast, see things clearly. They have no truck with compromise and dissembling. Yet the very basis of the Liberal Democrats' current political identity is that they are the party of coalition and consequent compromise.

Mr Ashdown was careful yesterday to couch his claims in terms of what the Liberal Democrats would do to temper the other parties, to keep them on the straight and narrow. That is indeed potentially their most valuable role. But what it requires is political gamesmanship, deal making, dalliance with the arts of the possible. Here is the Liberal Democrat paradox. The party helps make itself distinct by claiming to be holier than the others. But to translate any or all of its policies into reality means engaging with those other tainted parties. The Liberal Democrats

have a lot to offer, but their honesty must include a recognition that The Voters are not quite as wonderfully liberal-spirited and reform-minded as Mr Ashdown would have us believe: they are good and decent, in large measure, but they are also wary and inconsistent, and sometimes reactionary and mean. That is part of the reason why the two established parties make such good Aunt Sallies for Liberal Democrat leaders enjoying all the fun of the seaside fair.

I'd rather have the weekend off

Fed up with your boss? Gaze at goldfish. Overworked and underpaid? Prostrate yourself, Japanese-style, on a mattress on the floor. According to one large telephone sales company, futons, fountains and fish tanks can help prevent stress at work. Ergonomic restructuring of the office is, doubtless, a good idea. But let's be honest. British employees have the lowest morale in Europe not because they lack fish and flowing water, but because they work longer hours.

Better that the signalman who worked 43 days on the trot should take a weekend off than have a waterfall installed in his signal box.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ground these absurd rules on borrowing

Sir: Your report on the possible privatisation of air traffic control (23 September) highlights the absurdity of the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) rules.

Here we have a profitable industry which needs to invest to increase its profitability. There is an overwhelming case on safety grounds to keep it in the public sector. Yet PSBR rules dictate that public borrowing is bad for whatever purpose. The only route to raising the required cash is therefore privatisation.

Such a situation would not occur in any other European country, because none of them follow the ridiculous strictures of the PSBR. After all, the economic impact of borrowing to build air traffic control centres is the same whether National Air Traffic Services is a public or private body.

The same problems bedevil other parts of the public sector - the Post Office, municipal airports and council housing - which get most of their revenue from charges for services. Only those hell-bent on justifying privatisation can reject the case for joining our neighbours in adopting more sensible borrowing rules.

JOHN PERKY
Director of Policy
Chartered Institute of Housing
Coventry

Celibacy does not denote holiness

Sir: Paul Valley ("A scandal but not a crisis for the Church", 21 September) is right to aver that Bishop Wright's misbehaviour does not rock the edifice of Catholicism. More's the pity!

This most recent scandal ought to rock Catholicism, in that Bishop "Ruddy" has been exposed as an archetypal hypocrite within a system that for centuries has colluded in the rampant deceit that celibacy denotes holiness. In Bishop Wright's case this has been to claim the fatherhood of a diocese at the expense of a 15-year-old son.

The Rev ANDREW P de BERRY
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire

Sir: Celibacy - why all the fuss? Have not popes in the past fathered children to whom they presented good positions with landed revenues? And I remember when I was in Malta during the war the late Dr Boffa showed me an orphanage which he assured me was reserved solely for the children of priests.

In Italy some years ago I was having Sunday lunch at the Fior di Mare restaurant, in Numana (the Marche), when a furious altercation broke out at two neighbouring tables. A lady from Ancona accused another lady at the next table of having stolen her ring. The lady from Ancona was wont to go to confession up at Massignano, a village where there was a young, good-looking priest. There was also a large life-sized statue of Christ inside the porch, with fingers outstretched. The lady from Ancona had given one of her family rings to the priest for the statue. And this was the ring she had spotted on the finger of the young lady from Massignano.

The carabinieri had to be called. The ring was eventually restored. The bishop in Ancona transferred



the handsome young priest from Massignano, where the red wine is particularly good, to a poor hamlet where, alas, the local wine is harsh.

R G J M EARL
Alton, Hampshire

No hepatitis C risk from us

Sir: The article "Haemophiliacs 'denied clotting agent'" (17 September) referred to "3,000 - out of a total of 5,000 UK haemophiliacs in the UK - infected with hepatitis C to date". That could be taken to imply that hepatitis C infection is still being transmitted by plasma-derived factor VIII. Over the past 10 years, since we have introduced inactivation procedures into the production of plasma-derived products, there have been no transmissions of hepatitis C (or HIV) reported.

Although hepatitis A is more difficult than hepatitis B or HIV to inactivate, the facts speak for themselves: our products for the UK market, our products derived from high-purity factor VIII and has had no record of virus transmission of hepatitis A.

It is worth remembering that recombinant factor VIII is not an "artificial form of the clotting agent factor VIII", as it is produced from living cells. Moreover, in the vial which the patient uses, a human plasma-derived product (albumin) is included as a stabiliser. Thus the product is not "artificial" and may not necessarily be "virus-free".

CLIVE DASH
Medical Director
Bio Products Laboratory,
Elstree, Hertfordshire

Fight fairly on Internet porn

Sir: It is axiomatic that those who publish material on the World Wide Web or in Usenet newsgroups should not be treated more or less harshly by the law than those who use more traditional means.

Much of the SafetyNet proposal ("Industry moves to limit porn on the Internet", 23 September) is obviously intended in this vein. An essential part of the proposal (which is also referred to as R3, for "Rating, Reporting and Responsibility"), is that Internet service providers should require their users to rate their web pages so that those who use the PICS scheme can avoid the most offensive material.

PICS is a self-rating scheme, but in most implementations of it a failure to rate a page causes that page to be treated as most offensive - making it a travesty even to those who have set their tolerance threshold at a fairly high level. This is the way it should work, otherwise the innocent might be exposed inadvertently to unrated and unlawful material.

The reliance on PICS, rather than a more centralised scheme with clearly announced standards, will inevitably impose huge costs globally on those who are innocent of publishing illegal material, especially when each separate web page must be rated in order to surmount the PICS hurdle. Those who are publishing illegal material

and who do not rate their pages will not be inconvenienced, since their pages will be concealed from those who would not wish to see them, whether rated or not.

Unlike traditional forms of publication, then, the burden of responsibility is placed on those who abide by the law rather than those who flout it.

MARK GOULD
Department of Law
University of Bristol

Hungarian hero too outspoken

Sir: Adrian Bridge ("Bishop carries torch for Romanian minority", 23 September) is right to hail the Hungarian Calvinist Bishop László Tókes as one of the heroes of the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe because of his courage in defying the Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu.

But his influence over Romania's large Hungarian minority is exaggerated. On regular visits to Romania since 1990, it has been made clear to me by Hungarians that the bishop should confine his public role to religious duties. They fear that his outspoken criticisms of the government, and sometimes insensitive comments about Romanians in general, will only create fresh dangers for the community he genuinely seeks to champion.

Bishop Tókes, like Lech Wałęsa in Poland, is an inspired rebel who

has found the transition to orthodox politics hard to accomplish.

What minorities such as the Hungarian one in Romania need is pragmatic leaders who can combine with reform-minded members of the majority group to promote the real political and economic improvements which Romanians have yet to see seven years after Ceausescu's demise.

Dr TOM GALLAGHER
Department of Peace Studies
University of Bradford

Sir: Jonathan Eyal's erudite defence of the need by Nato not to neglect Romania in the likely event of Hungary's admission to that organisation by the end of the decade (letter, 18 September) sounds persuasive now that both countries have agreed to sign an inter-state treaty.

Unfortunately, though, Nato's criteria for admission would still leave Romania without the right to join the first wave of new members. It also needs to recognise its borders with Ukraine and Moldova.

Until the Romanian authorities drop their insistence on including in inter-state treaties with Ukraine and Moldova a denunciation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a demand which is perceived in Kiev and Chisinau as a thinly disguised territorial claim, then Romania will not have fulfilled one of the three criteria for consideration of Nato membership.

TARAS KUZIO
University of Birmingham

A Green present or a grey future

Sir: Your leading article of 23 September on the Liberal Democrats ended with the suggestion that by watching events at Brighton this week "we may see the glimmer of policies for the next millennium". If you had reported on the previous week's Green Party conference in Hastings you would have seen a very clear expression of the policies required today.

A basic income scheme to provide for everyone's needs. A shift from taxing desirables such as labour to taxing the undesirable of pollution and profligate energy consumption. Radical action to combat global warming. Abolition of nuclear weapons. A Europe based on a decentralised confederation of strong regions.

If we are to develop a healthy, sustainable world based on social justice in the next millennium it will come from a Green perspective, not from the growth-obsessed short-termism of the three grey parties.

DAVID CROMWELL
Southampton, Hampshire

Iranian fighters

Sir: In a letter dated 17 September, Ehsan Pirnia, whose name is unknown to us, claims to be a former member of the People's Mojahedin of Iran and repeats the old absurdities uttered by the mullahs' regime time and time again. The reality is that the Mojahedin of Iran have not had any bases or forces in Iraqi Kurdistan for many years.

HOSSEIN MIR ABEDINI
Press Office, the People's Mojahedin
London NW4

Three cheers for classy judges

Sir: I met a very worried lady in my local last night. Her husband, she told me over lager and crisps, is accused of a bank robbery. It seems he was on the premises discussing business with the manager when it was found that large amounts of money were missing.

Mr Sikes underwent a long trial and, although found not guilty of stealing cash from the till, had still, in a second trial, to be cleared of robbing the vault.

Mrs Sikes confided, amid tears, that she had just had a chat with the judge involved. She'd explained to him, over a couple of Babychams, that she'd only just survived the first trial - "What with the kids and all," as she put it. She didn't know how on earth she'd cope with the second one.

The judge had listened very patiently to her story, dabbing his eyes with a tissue. "He was a real toff," said Mrs Sikes, "and I must say that all this stuff about people like me being scorned by such as him is just rubbish. He said he fully understood how I felt, and how Bill himself must feel, and though he couldn't promise like, he'd see what he could do. It was just on the cards that he could stop this travesty, he said."

I left the pub considerably cheered. I've recently begun to feel very cynical about public standards in Great Britain. British justice, I now begin to think, may well be the best in the world.

TED BURFORD
London W5

Europe is on to Murdoch

Sir: Although Polly Toynbee is to be applauded for turning a spotlight on the threat to British television ("Stop Murdoch now or regret it", 23 September), she is not fighting a lone battle.

The European Parliament last week voted by a significant majority for a comprehensive range of policies to defend public service broadcasters such as the BBC. Measures it approved, which were put forward in a report by the Labour MEP Carole Tongue, include keeping major sports events on free TV, obliging cable and satellite operators to carry public service programming and providing proper financial backing for the public service channels.

The reality, however, is that obsession with deregulation and liberalisation has blinkered policymakers to the genuine public interest. Mesdames Tongue and Toynbee are rightly raising the alarm - but they are fighting phantoms for whom the market is all that matters.

TONY ROBINSON
Brussels

Early name fame

Sir: Perhaps the earliest person still remembered in a country's name (Letters, 19 September) is Ashur (Genesis 10 xi) whose name gave us ancient Assyria and modern Syria. Whilst not perhaps the oldest known example - Canaan and Nimrod might perhaps claim that distinction - Ashur's name not only survives in our atlases to this day, but also predates Tarik and Israel (Letters, 21 September) and exists in the names of at least two languages and three peoples as well, ancient and modern.

STEPHEN BAX
Canterbury

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

essay

The signs are clear: the future is inequality

As markets become global and the traditional workplace gives way to cyberspace, only the elite will have anything to offer to the world's economies. Ian Angell predicts mass unemployment for the unskilled, and a slow death for the nation state

Many too many are born. The state was devised for the superfluous ones. With these pitiless words from another century, Friedrich Nietzsche heralds the demise of the nation state as we enter the next. The Industrial Age and its need for an over-supply of humanity spawned the nation state. But what is to be done with the glut as we enter the Information Age?

There will be no nice, tidy transition, rather a severe and total dislocation with the past. One thing is certain: the masses will not win in the natural selection for dominance of an increasingly elitist and cosmopolitan world.

Because of new technology the costs of production have dropped to a point where a billion new workers have entered the job market. Companies are globalising and mobilising, chasing "spot markets" in cyberspace. The costs of over-coming time and space no longer buffer the impact of cheap labour. The state has to be part of the global economy, so it is incapable of fending off foreign incursions. Mass unemployment is a cancer infecting every nation state, sending shock waves through their workforces.

The electronic transfer of money offshore has made tax avoidance a bigger business than narcotics. The next stop is off-planet banking.

Unhindered by national barriers, corporations will be truly global. They can communicate globally, and their shareholders, executives and employees are spread out across the globe. They will relocate, physically, fiscally or electronically, to where the profit is greatest and the regulation least. Their profits are declared in low-tax countries, while they continue to operate in high-tax ones. The global company no longer supports the aspirations of the country of its birth.

Companies large and small move. When a British plastics company switched its polythene bag factory from Telford to China, 150 British jobs were lost, but its payroll bill was cut by 90 per cent.

Despite all the patriotic bleating, companies know that to remain competitive they can no longer afford to carry a large and overpriced inventory of a national "people product" of varying value and quality. It is no accident that most companies are presently downsizing, delayering and outsourcing. Routine production jobs can be performed by robots or exported anywhere on the globe, so wages will converge worldwide to Third World levels. "Social dumping" is also dragging down wages for service work, a sector which is itself being increasingly automated. In 1994 the International Labour Organisation claimed that there were 800 million sub-employed people in the world; the West must now suffer its fair share.

Job losses are not the result of some temporary downturn in

the economic cycle, but are the result of structural change. It is no good waiting for the upturn. Fundamental changes in the nature of work are taking place, changes as profound as when agricultural workers left the land for the cities and the whole fabric of society mutated. Now work is leaving the office and the factory for cyberspace.

The idea of a job, born with the Machine Age, is changing beyond all recognition. Work is becoming increasingly casual and part time among the mass of workers. No one will protect their interests. Released from a single location, companies are free to ring the death knell of dinosaur trades unions. Middle management, too, is under threat. Under the euphemistic banner of business process re-engineering, companies are firing a quarter of managers. The motto for everyone is "add value or perish".

Moralising politicians use the fact of "inhuman" working conditions in the Third World for their hypocritical import controls in their pathetic attempts to stem the tide, but large corporations will ignore their pleas. Even President Clinton can't control corporate America in its feeding frenzy over the China market.

Politicians, both the knaves and the naïve, incant the abracadabra words "training in new technology" and "jobs through growth" to conjure up new jobs for the huge number of soon-

to-be-unemployed. They will never learn that technology is the problem, not the solution. Today, productivity is delivered by a technology needing only a few machine minders. National economies can no longer grow themselves out of unemployment. Growth has been uncoupled from employment. It is created by the unique skills of a few entrepreneurial knowledge workers, not the labour of low-grade service and production workers.

The continuous innovation of entrepreneurs is the real generator of wealth. Their income will increase substantially as countries compete in a global market for their wealth-generating services, without which states will drown in a whirlpool of poverty.

Innovation happens in self-generating hot spots with incentives that stimulate investment and profit. The very concentration of innovation acts as a magnet for established innovators and a spur for new enterprise. But knowledge workers refuse to be treated as part of a homogeneous labour force, as standardised units. Talent, entrepreneurship, innovation – the great dividers of humanity – are diviners of economic success. Egalitarianism goes out of the window in this dog-eat-dog world.

The role of the state is to nurture, propagate and supply quality human raw material. Government is merely the supplier at the bottom end of the value chain that ultimately supplies

wealth, which is the product not of labour, but of individual intellect and determination. If a state cannot produce a quality "people product" in sufficient quantities, then it must buy it in from abroad; it must scour the globe for elite knowledge workers, no matter what their age, sex, race or religion.

This elite of rootless economic mercenaries will expect to pay less tax, not more. Governments everywhere are being forced to lower top tax rates in line with declining global levels. They will have to acquiesce to the will of global enterprises and their key employees. Tax credits, tax holidays and "regulatory arbitrage" will be the name of the game everywhere.

Politicians must find ways of attracting global employers in order to employ the local masses. If, however, the state maintains a greedy collectivist and populist stance, under the defunct motto "power to the people", then the entrepreneurial and knowledge aristocracy will move on to more lucrative and agreeable climes, leaving that country economically unviable, composed solely of the unproductive masses, sliding inevitably into a vicious circle of decline.

The power in global economic forces means that the tax burden is irrevocably moving away from the elite on to the shoulders of the immobile. When Leona Helmsley said "only the little people pay taxes", she was unwittingly making a prediction. Very soon

companies will be negotiating preferential tax deals, not only for themselves but also for chosen elite employees.

Politicians may promise, but markets decide. Governments are impotent as they face a triple whammy: substantially lower tax revenues, increased social security payouts, and the need to support "deprived areas". The books just do not balance.

The liability of a large, uneducated and ageing population is another major problem. The masses, with only a Saturday night lottery to soften the blow, will put economic well-being before the dubious privilege of electing powerless representatives.

The lights are going out for whole categories of employment. We are entering an age of hopelessness, an age of resentment, an age of rage. Whole sectors of society who previously felt their future secure can see it slipping away. Dissent is fermenting, and normally law-abiding citizens, who have nothing to lose, are being sucked into a culture of protest and crime. In the winter of 1995, French workers and students took to the streets against Alain Juppé's government in a futile defence of their cradle-to-grave health and welfare systems. But as the peasants were protesting in Paris, the "gnomes of London" were profiting from speculation.

The slow redistribution of wealth that has occurred over the last centuries is being

rapidly reversed. The disposable income of the majority will be drastically reduced. The rich are getting richer, and the poor poorer: the future is inequality. At the bottom of the heap we are witnessing an expanding underclass. The streets of London are again littered with beggars. The self-glamorising "New Age travellers" cannot disguise the fact that they are just a bunch of nomadic losers, whose survival depends on handouts from the tax-payer. Those tax-payers will demand restrictions on the mobility of travellers in return for their charity. The new Criminal Justice legislation is just the first step to the reinvention of the Poor Laws.

The state must behave as an economic institution, a national firm judged against the new economic circumstances. No state has an automatic right to exist. Government, like every other enterprise, will have to survive on the efforts of an élite few. It must represent success not failure; but in the Information Age, governments chosen by the majority are governments chosen by losers. The "will of the people" voting for full employment, a minimum wage and fair taxation is merely tuckers voting for Christmas. The politics of envy is suicide.

Democracy will degenerate to being the means of governing the immobile and dependent service workers. That citizens elect their slave masters makes their democracy slavery none the less. Democracy is an artefact from a time when the masses were needed. The big political question of the coming decades is how to find a socially acceptable means of dismantling democracy.

How can Middle England trust the present cast of parliamentary degenerates to lead us into this Brave New World? How can we expect leadership from those who get elected by kissing babies, and stay there by kissing backside? The Tories, apologists for an aristocracy, have chosen the wrong aristocracy: yesterday's rather than tomorrow's. Despite all the spin-doctoring, Labour is still the party of the peasants; and the global power equation is unequivocal – "the sum of zeros is zero". As for the Liberal Democrats, Nietzsche says it all: "the honourable term for mediocre is, of course, the word 'liberal'".

Who will defend us? Globalisation has shown the James Bond myth, where the state is good and global corporations (Spectre) bad, to be blatant state propaganda – a morality tale told by tax collectors. James Bond, the patron saint of civil servants, the thug of state, is now a geriatric. Goldfinger has won. The world belongs to the global corporation. The nation state is now desperately sick, and a desperate disease requires a dangerous remedy" (Guy Fawkes).

Ian Angell, professor of information systems at the London School of Economics, appears in 'The Hollow State', a two-part documentary on the end of the nation state, beginning this Saturday at 8.10pm on BBC2.



GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEAD START WITH

BBC EARLY LEARNING

Learning is Fun!

FREE

Free animal snap cards with issue 1!

ON SALE NOW AT ALL GOOD NEWSAGENTS AND SUPERMARKETS!

FOR SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 01483 733753

Irnbu beat PVC Anorak on bar bills...

Miles Kingston

Well, it was another night of mixed fortunes for British football in Europe last night (writes our soccer pundit, René McGrath, safely back in his office at HQ) as some teams went marching through with their heads held high, some went creeping back with their tails between their legs and some are still stuck in an airport somewhere in Eastern Europe.

But perhaps unluckiest of all are the Midland maestros, M1 Wanderers, who came up against the Monaco champions, Sporting Casino, at their first laid stepped up and stroked it past our keeper, so then our second laid stepped up and blasted it home from the spot wide of their goalies' desperately outstretched fingers, at which point...

Yes, yes, but what was the result, for God's sake?

"Well, all the penalty takers got their goals, so then it went down to the spin of a coin, only this being Monaco, local rules say that you have to use a roulette wheel and, if my rudimentary French is accurate, we not only lost the spin and the game but went down £500,000 on red."

Goodbye to M1 Wanderers then. And an ignominious exit from the Cup Winners Cup last night for Isle of Man Cup holders, plucky little Douglas Fairbanks United, who have won the Isle of Man Cup every year since 1956 but only occasionally enter the Cup Winners Cup on the wild island card entry. They were unlucky enough to meet a Vatican Cardinals XI on top form and even more unlucky to have two men sent off for making unwise remarks about Scottish Catholic Bishops. The 6-3 scoreline more or less reflects the difference between the two sides, ie, one side scored six goals and one only scored three.

Better luck, though, for the crack Scottish team Irnbu United who drew with the Norwegian team PVC Anorak on the away bar bills ruling. "Aye, what a night!" said manager Kenny McKenny. "What a night! Ah, can you remember a thing! What a night it must have been! Also on a winning streak were the Irish team Rovers United, who came out 5-2 winners against Danish amateurs Ole Membrane. Here's Jim Dobson with the details.

"Well, René, I think you've got that a bit wrong there, because Ole Membrane is in fact back, and they were in fact playing the crack Turkish Second Division team Kurds Park Rangers in an enthralling contest which swung first one way and then, hold on, I've got my notes somewhere, and then swayed, hold on..."

"We'll get back to Jim Dobson as soon as he's got his notes sorted out. Meanwhile the sparkling Cumbrian side Melvyn Bragg Casuals were in action last night against Umberto Eco's Structuralists, and here is one of the exciting moments from last night's encounter.

"So, if I've got that right, and I speak only as a recent convert to science, this may explain how tomatoes can double in size in one generation, but it doesn't really explain how Mozart wrote his greatest works, does it? So there may be a god after all? Yes, Alison, do you want to come in?"

Yes, well, perhaps not one of the most exciting moments, but fairly typical, I think.

Other results in brief:

EUROPEAN GAME

NAME CUP Keele 1 Kiel 1

Bury 1 Berry 1

Barry Town 1 Bari Town 1 (Bari through on fewer letters rule)

EUROPEAN RHYMING CUP

Yeovil 2 Deaville 2

هَذَا مِنْ الْأَمَلِ

Crime is up! Hit the moral panic button

I was tempted yesterday morning to break into a broad grin on hearing the annual crime figures – up again! The sound of the Home Secretary wriggling on the radio will have generated many a gleeful smirk amongst all those toilers in the world of crime and punishment driven to despair by his policies. Crime up? Ha ha ha!

What is he to say to the Tory Conference in a fortnight's time, eh? Michael Howard has crowed that his tough policies work – 25 per cent more in prison – because the recorded crime figures dipped for three consecutive years. (Though the far more reliable British Crime Survey continued to show a steady upward climb.) But those who live by lies shall die by lies: the figures were complete bunk and hocus. By the same token, yesterday's figures are also bunk and hocus, for we do not know what the real crime rate is, nor even how it fluctuates. Of all government statistics the most mendacious are the police crime figures.

Erratically, they record changes in social and policing habits rather than crimes committed. The great mythical "crime waves" of the Seventies and Eighties coincided with a huge escalation in the number of people with insurance policies. (Those without rarely bother to report thefts.) A rapid rise in telephone ownership made reporting crime more common. Similarly, installing answerphones instead of policemen in rural police stations meant fewer people bothered to report rural crimes. Crime figures wobble wildly according to police priorities, the law and the courts: have rape and sex crimes really risen, or just the reporting of them? Police trying to improve their clear-up rate reduce their recording of unsolvable crimes, while police bidding for more manpower try to increase them.

But 5.1 million crimes? That is a great many (and there are an estimated three times more unreported). How frightened should we be? Burglary is deeply distressing, but what really alarms us is violence from strangers – yet that is rare and has risen the least. Ninety-three per cent of crime is against property. Only 6 per cent of crime is violent, and only a tiny 0.6 per cent of that is serious. A quarter of serious assaults are domestic, while babies are the most common murder victims. Crime is highly concentrated – many areas having virtually none, while 70 per cent of crimes happen to those who have suffered already that same year.

Fear of crime is higher in Britain than in most of Europe – although "assault with force" rates are among the lowest: Germany and Holland are almost twice as high. Unwarranted fear keeps the old indoors,



Polly Toynbee

Exploring the outer limits of human evil, we peer into our own dark souls and pleasurably frighten ourselves with our potential for sin

women out of public transport and makes parents overprotect their children.

But worse still, it grips the nation with moral panic. Whenever some young brute clocks up a hundred crimes, a child is cruelly slaughtered, or a teacher stabbed, the wall goes up, "What is becoming of us?" The smell of fear is in the air.

Keeping things in proportion gets harder as the abuse or willful ignorance of statistics grows. For instance, the number of homicides is almost exactly the same now as it was in 1857, at around 13 per million of the population. The rate has stayed broadly flat since the mid-1970s (and murder is the most reliable statistic). That does not sound very frightening. But if you prefer to be terrified, try this: in 1918 there were only 80,000 recorded indictable offences – now it is five million.

Crime is serious and people are right to be angry, for we all have our anecdotes and there are a multitude of causes and solutions over which we can all argue. Some might cry terminal sin, single parents or the like. I would point to European figures showing how theft and burglary rates track the graph of boom and bust, going up and down with unemployment.

For crime is the flip side of mass prosperity in a grossly unequal society. Believers in our moral decline point out that in the depressed but morally better 1930s there was little theft. But that comparison makes no sense: then a huge homogenous poor working class had nothing – nothing to envy and nothing to steal. Now there is virtually no working class, only a deprived underclass and a huge well-off class parading its Nike trainers and designer label chinos in front of the noses of the wretched young have-nothings.

Although crime is only a small part of life, we have always been disproportionately fascinated with it – in literature, films, television, and gruesome cases that sell newspapers. Exploring the outer limits of human evil, we peer into our own dark souls and pleasurably frighten ourselves with our potential for sin. As a society, casting out transgressors defines ourselves and our values. But that fascination is starting to run riot. Reasonable concern is turning into a moral panic that obscures any real understanding of the society we live in – largely prosperous, happy, peaceful and better educated than ever – but with some grave and intractable problems: poverty, unemployment, underachievement and, yes, crime. To solve them we need to study what works, how to prevent the worst and encourage the best – not wallow in a morass of despair. Moral hysteria breeds paralysis or, worse, it generates the sort of useless punitive remedies prescribed by Michael Howard to please the frightened crowds.

Where have all the nurses gone?

By Christine Hancock



A localised pay system keeps their wages down, but their skills are in greater demand than ever. And they are disappearing

At last it's official. The health service has too few nurses. We are facing a recruitment crisis that could stretch well into the next century. After two years reminiscent of television's *The X-Files*, during which the Government denied all knowledge, it now admits that we have a problem.

Nurses have warned of it for some time. A survey released today by the Royal College of Nursing proves it. By the year 2000 a quarter of all registered nurses will have reached retirement age, while the number of nursing students has dropped by 39 per cent in eight years.

Yet demand for nurses is rising sharply. Although NHS demand has remained relatively unchanged, there has been a massive increase from independent providers such as nursing homes. They employ 26 per cent of all registered nurses. Ten years ago this figure was only 8 per cent. In the NHS, too, demand is now expected to start rising.

The facts about nursing shortages speak for themselves. We all know of someone whose operation has been cancelled, someone who has been waiting on a list for years, or has been turned away from hospital because a bed can't be found. Roughly translated, that means there aren't enough nurses.

What has the Government done so far to alleviate the shortages? First, it denied the shortages. Next, it began to reinstate some of the lost training places for nurses. But its main contribution was to introduce a system of local pay which forces nurses to negotiate with their managers. This year, nurses were awarded a national increase of 2 per cent. The Government said it had high hopes that this would be topped up locally.

In fact, only a tiny percentage has received anything more than 2 per cent. Doctors, meanwhile, received 6 per cent and MPs will get 26 per cent. Both have national awards. Nursing's pay review body, unlike that of the MPs, has not considered the consequences for the nation's health of a prolonged recruitment crisis. Nor has it considered the amount nurses receive compared with other professions.

Nurses still lag well behind all comparable professions. While a newly qualified staff nurse earns less than £12,000 a year, a police constable gets £14,500. Meanwhile, a ward sister with several years' experience often earns £6,000 less

than a police sergeant. Two-thirds of nurses questioned in today's survey believe that they would be paid more for less effort if they left nursing altogether. And last year 6 per cent did just that.

The Government has forgotten what Mrs Thatcher knew. She established the review body to avoid unrest. She was reluctant to continue a war with nurses because she knew the enormous public support that nursing enjoys.

She was right. Looking ahead to the next election, if we go by today's opinion polls,

then the Labour Party should now learn from the Government's mistakes. The RCN has never been in a situation in which it has opened up so much clear water between the parties. By demanding a national award for nurses set by an independent review body, we have distanced ourselves from the Government. Ironically, at the same time, New Labour is reluctant to make any commitment. If the Labour Party wants peaceful, constructive relationships with the largest professional group in health care to ensure the highest standards

of patient care, it should commit itself to a national award for nurses. Not out of old-fashioned principle, nor because we have a National Health Service, but because it makes sense to treat nursing as a national professional group.

For other health service employees, local pay and local labour markets may make sense. But nurses and similar professionals receive intensive training for three years or more. A growing number are graduates. You can't attract more people into nursing at the drop of a hat, nor by offering

them a few more pounds that they have to negotiate for. Nurses are a valuable national asset, trained to the same high standards throughout the country. A national perspective on the recruitment and retention of nurses must now go hand-in-hand with a system of national pay.

Today, nurses everywhere are taking on new roles and responsibilities. In hospitals, nurses are working alongside surgeons where it makes sense. Reports of nurses carrying out minor operations have not led to howls of protest from patients, because, frankly, patients feel safer when there's a registered nurse around. In the community, many nurses are working in partnership with GPs, taking on such tasks as vaccinations, intensive home nursing care, and running well-women and well-men clinics.

We have to ensure that there are enough nurses to deliver these services. This will never be achieved through local pay. Today's survey shows that nurses who have left nursing or who intend to leave blame local pay for their decision.

Nurses want a commitment to a system of national pay. Nothing else will do. If we don't get it, anger and unrest might be among the least of the Government's problems. Some trusts are already looking at alternative arrangements because they can't get enough nurses. We have seen attempts to train other health workers – including cleaners – to carry out nursing duties. The nightmare of calling for a nurse and being attended to by a cleaner has understandably unsettled patients and the public.

Such initiatives do signal a move towards lowest-common-denominator health care. Yet today, some nurses are undertaking part of their training with doctors and therapists. Nurses and doctors are now beginning to understand which treatments work and why. This knowledge is crucial. If we are to provide the best cost-effective care in the future we cannot put these innovations at risk.

As we approach the general election, might I suggest a slogan that will mean something to the public? It is this: "Whenever you need it, you will be cared for by a registered nurse." I guarantee you will get a reaction – not least from more than half a million nurses, as well as the families and patients who depend on them.

The writer is general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing

OUR SERIES ON THE PEOPLE JOCKEYING FOR INFLUENCE IN THE LATE NINETIES



THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT
Day eight

Think-tanks
They bear menaces rather than gifts – but new Labour is welcoming their ideas
By Peter Popham

Why can't Labour win general elections? One explanation is that Mrs Thatcher seized the intellectual initiative for the right back in the early Eighties, and the left has never managed to seize it back. Until it does so – until it discovers a Big Idea to rival the ones that worked so well for her – it is doomed to limp along behind the Tories, at best offering a new set of faces.

Think-tankers have nothing of the Establishment about them – neither classic genes, nor wealth, nor great address books, nor (necessarily) solid gold educations. What they have to offer is less in the way of gift-offerings than menaces: the "flying objects", as the late Richard Crossman put it, "that really terrify politicians' new ideas". Yet they are welcome at the feast: the bearers of new ideas are becoming prominent and are being feted in the Labour party as never before.

The left's intellectual fight back began with the setting up of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) back in 1988: a laborious name – in its logo the two "p"s are question marks – for what is disdained by its rivals as a doggedly Labourist outfit, too shackled to traditional Labour positions to come up with anything startlingly novel. IPPR basked under Kimock's sun, but with his departure it found itself cast into the shade. Big Ideas remained elusive.

Perhaps there was more to be learned from those who were Thatcher's worst enemy: the devil incarnate. Two years ago some 95 intellectuals from all corners of the Left and none got together at Frederick's restaurant in Islington (Cherie Blair celebrated her 40th birthday there) to launch Demos, a think-tank which was to be genuinely open-minded: open to right ideas as well as left, and to experience from elsewhere (especially America). Demos got off to a splendid start when the *Daily Mail* derided it as "a ragtag band of one-time Communists, Hampstead socialists and quasi-experts", and it hasn't looked back. Its director, Geoff Mulgan, who is 32 but looks much younger, is a plausible specimen of post-Thatcherite man: blond, well-suited, personable enough to have the £100,000 needed to get the thing

going. "He's the most brilliant person I've ever met," says a former associate, and he's not wrong. Like many of the brainy young, he's a graduate both of Balliol College, Oxford, and of Gordon Brown's office, where he worked from 1990 to 1992. He still has the great man's ear. Dennis Stevenson, chairman of the trustees at the Tate Gallery and a burgeoning New Establishment figure himself, is likewise a fan.

And in its first years, Demos has built a formidable head of steam, tackling issues as particular as dentists and heating contractors, and as big as social democracy.

The problem is, it's so uninhibited. So when it turns its attention to social democracy, for example, its chosen sage, the former Thatcherite John Gray, declares (in his pamphlet *After Social Democracy*) "the central economic programme of social democracy is unwelcome and social democracy itself a bankrupt project."

Hardly helpful. Demos is dynamite, but you can never be totally sure where or whom it is going to blow up. But if that dog won't hunt, there's always the Fabian Society to fall back on. In contrast to IPPR and others that have sprouted in the wilderness years, the Fabians go back to the glory days – to the Webbs and George Bernard Shaw. Even today, all but two members of Labour's front bench belong to it. The only problem is (people say) it's at its last gasp. But now a highly promising new general secretary has been appointed to administer first aid.

You don't need to be a reckless gambler to bet that Stephen Twigg (pictured) is a man to watch. Only 29, with the amiable, artless look of a large, startled hedgehog, he's another Balliol man, and went on to become president of the National Union of Students. Since then he has rarely put a foot wrong: he has been councillor then deputy leader of Islington council, and research assistant to Margaret Hodge, the Blair's neighbour and confidant who is the new MP for Barking. At the general election Twigg will stand against Michael Portillo, and if he is unlikely to erase Portillo's 16,000 majority (he is openly gay, which may not help), he is at least likely to raise his profile a useful notch or two.

Twigg, like everybody else, is keen to discover that Big Idea, the philosopher's stone of new Labour which will turn its lead into gold. To that end he plans to revive the moribund Fabian Research Bureau, to take over the society's idea-generating function. But like a juggernaut bearing down, the election looms: there is little mental space at present for any Big Idea besides victory.

Tomorrow: Mandelson's people

We'll stop the Red Flag flying

The Labour Party is thinking the unthinkable – that it should no longer sing the most singable, most poignant, most battle-hardened hymn in its revolutionary repertoire. Tony Blair would probably prefer to drop "The Red Flag" – the tune Attlee's victorious MPs chanted as they paraded through the Commons' lobbies in 1945.

But how do you replace a song, whose chorus promises "though towards flinch and traitors sneer/we'll keep the red flag flying here"? Written by Jim Connell, a Victorian Catholic Irishman who filled it full of blood sacrifice, and sung to the tune, "Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree/How lovely are your branches," "The Red Flag" combines populism with fundamentalism.

Parties are often not adept at changing their political tune. When Labour adopted Queen's "We are the champions" for its 1991 conference, it looked yobbish. And the Liberal Democrats, accompanied this week in Brighton by "Search for the hero inside yourself", sound as though they are selling not policies but Peugeots.

So what could Labour do, if it decided to lower "The Red Flag"? One simple alternative would be a famous bastardised version of the hymn, striking an aspirational new Labour pose, which begins: "The working class can kiss my ass/I've got the foreman's job at last." Another rendering whose time has come opens: "The cloth cap and the working class/As images are dated/For we are Labour's want guard/And we are educated."

But perhaps a new tune is needed. In Labour circles, there's much support for

William Blake's "Jerusalem", a rousing hymn about creating God's own city. But it's utterly English – bound to annoy the Scots. Worse, the Tories (who don't seem to understand Blake's rallying call to social justice) already sing it themselves. There is also support for, "I vow to thee my country", but the tune sounds too much like an advert for full-cream butter.

Mr Blair needs to think afresh. Yesterday, Tony Banks MP, after a full and errorless rendition of "The Red Flag" down the phone from Strasbourg, suggested: "What about 'The sun has got his hat on, hip, hip, hooray' or 'Jesus wants me for a sunbeam'? They would appeal to the broadest section of people. That's what the Labour party's for these days, isn't it?"

If it's my party and I'll cry if I want to", the Sixties classic, also wins support among disenchanted Labour figures. As does "Money Makes the World Go Round", "Things Can Only Get Better" and, in anticipation of a post-election love-in with the Liberal Democrats, "Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree".

A compromise that might please many would be the music hall number: "It's the rich who gets the pleasure/It's the poor who gets the blame/It's the same the whole world over/Ain't it all a bloody shame." But this would surely meet the same objections as "The Red Flag". No, the Labour leader will have to get radical to strike a truly Thatcherite pose and win over wavering Tories. Noël Coward should be his muse. How about the 1938 song: "The stately homes of England/We proudly represent?"

Jack O'Sullivan



To us

General courses: All levels - 2-4 hours/week.

French

Crash courses: All levels - 4 weeks - 15 hours/week.

isn't

Business French: Advanced only - 15 weeks - 4 hours/week.

second

In company tuition: All levels - General & Business French.

nature,

Tuition for children: At child's school - At home.

it's first.

Call now for a free brochure: 0171 723 7471.



Alliance Française de Londres
1 Dorset Square,
London NW1 6PL

Sponsored by the French Government.
Registered charity no. 276592.

obituaries / gazette

Denis Dowling

The connection between the New Zealand-born baritone Denis Dowling and Sadler's Wells (later English National) Opera spanned 45 years. Dowling made his debut with the company as Falstaff in *Der Rosenkavalier* in March 1939, while still a student at the Royal College of Music, and said farewell on 29 June 1984 (five days after his 74th birthday) as Prince Nikolai Bolkonsky in Prokofiev's *War and Peace* at the Metropolitan in New York, on the last night of ENO's American tour.

Though he lost several years owing to the Second World War and its aftermath, Dowling clocked up a vast number of performances of more than 100 different roles. A skilful comedian, with a flexible lyric baritone voice, he excelled in Mozart and Rossini, but he was equally convincing as the sadistic Prison Camp Commandant in Janáček's *From the House of the Dead* or the Secret Police Agent in Menotti's *The Consul* and as Baron Mirko Zeta in *The Merry Widow* or Pook Bah in *The Mikado*.

Denis Dowling was born in Ranfurly, New Zealand, and brought up on his father's sheep farm, where he himself worked on leaving school. After playing the baritone (saxhorn) in the local brass band, in 1929 he began to take singing lessons with Frank Tuohy, a well-known local voice teacher. Within a year he was entering – and winning – competitions in Dunedin and Christchurch and taking part in concerts and radio broadcasts.

In 1933 he sang Marquis Henri de Cornville in Planquette's *Les Cloches de Corneville* for the Dunedin Operatic and Dramatic Society, his "first essay into the realms of musical comedy". Then, after winning the Melbourne Sun Aria Contest in 1934, he came to London to study further.

Dowling obtained a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, where his vocal teacher was Dawson Freer. In July 1937 his performance of Ford in a College production of Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor* was noticed by Lilian Baylis, director of the Sadler's Wells Opera, who suggested that he should contact her when he had completed his studies. Though Baylis died later that year, in 1939 Dowling was asked to sing Falstaff at Sadler's Wells.

As the first singer to be awarded the Tagore Gold Medal for the best all-round student of the year, he left the

RCM in a blaze of glory, but the outbreak of the Second World War postponed all plans for the future. It would be nine years before he returned to Sadler's Wells.

During the war Dowling served as an officer with the Royal Artillery, taking part in the D-Day Normandy landings. He was blown up twice, first into a barn, then out again, with dice effect on his lungs. After demobilisation, in 1947 he joined the newly formed English Opera Group, singing Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Sid in Britten's *Albert Herring* at Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, Copenhagen, Oslo, Amsterdam and Lucerne, and Ben Budge in Britten's version of *The Beggar's Opera* at Cambridge. In 1948 he finally returned to Sadler's Wells, making his first appearance as Silvio in *Pagliacci*.

New roles followed thick and fast: throughout the 1950s he was giving up to 70 performances a season. He sang Escamillo and Don Carlos in *Carmen*, Dr Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, a Showman and a Sergeant in Vaughan Williams's *High the Diver*, Sharpless in *Madam Butterfly*, Baron Douphol and Germont in *La Traviata*, Pietro in *Simon Boccanegra*, Marcello in *La Bohème* and many other roles.

One of his earliest successes was Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, which he first sang in 1950. The role suited him both vocally and dramatically, displaying his superb diction as well as the solid technique acquired at the RCM. Another favourite was Doctor Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, a similarly mercurial character. His first Mozart role was Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, followed by the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*.

In 1956, the Mozart bicentenary year, Dowling made a very stylish Don Giovanni and, moving from master to valet, a highly subversive Figaro. Two years later he took on the spoken part of Pasha Selim in *The Seraglio*, revealing a beautiful speaking voice. Perhaps the finest of all his Mozart roles was Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), in which a smooth and polished manner did not conceal the character's deep cynicism.

Nineteen fifty-six was also the year that Dowling gave one of his best comic performances, Sir Tristram Trollope in *Martha*; in 1957 Gianni Schicchi, a genial rogue with a great sense



Dowling with Heather Bogg in Rossini's *Count Ory* at Sadler's Wells, 1963. Photograph: Hulton Getty

of humour, was equally good, but both were surpassed in 1959 by Dandini in *La Cenerentola*. A superb sense of comic timing, together with his habitual excellence of diction and the fluency of his florid singing, made this a magnificent portrayal.

Shortly afterwards, Dowling moved from Figaro in *The Barber* to Doctor Bartolo, scoring yet another great success. In 1963 he added Raimondo in *Count Ory* to his collection of Rossini roles, followed by Fabrizio in *The Thieving Magpie* and, after the company moved to the Coliseum in 1968, by Taddeo in *The Italian Girl in Algiers*.

Meanwhile, as soon as the copyright on the Gilbert and Sullivan operas expired in 1962, Sadler's Wells mounted *Iolanthe*, in which Dowling made an imposing Earl of Mountararat, and *The Mikado*, with the baritone as Pook Bah. In 1963 *Iolanthe* was toured to Ger-

many, where it caused astonishment as well as mirth.

From the *House of the Dead* in 1965 aroused very different emotions: Janáček's opera, based on Dostoevsky's autobiographical novel, brought out a more serious aspect of the singer's talent. Cast against type as the cruel Commandant, Dowling won universal praise. Sir Humphrey, a role he created in Phyllis Tate's *The What if?* at the Cheltenham Festival in 1966, and George Selincourt, which he sang in the premiere of Richard Rodney Bennett's *A Penny for a Song* in 1976, were more in his usual style.

Rejoining the English Opera Group in 1971, Dowling sang Merlin in Purcell's *King Arthur* at the Norwich Festival and at Drottningholm in Sweden, receiving great praise. For ENO (as it had become in 1974) Dowling took on many character roles: the Commissioner in

Madam Butterfly, de Brétigny in *Manon*, the Commissar of Police in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Marquis d'Obigny in *La Traviata*, and Baron Wurmherhelm in Prokofiev's *The Gambler*, bringing them all to vivid theatrical life. The gems of the collection were Benoit and Alcandro in *La Bohème* and Prince Nikolai Bolkonsky. Having originally sung this extremely disagreeable character in 1972, he repeated it for several revivals until 1984, when *War and Peace* was given at the Coliseum, then in Austin, Texas, and New York. Subsequently Dowling retired, both as singer and as Vocal Consultant to the company, a post he had held since 1976.

Elizabeth Forbes

Denis Dowling, opera singer, born Ranfurly, South Island, New Zealand 24 June 1910; married 1943 Phyllis Clutterbuck; died London 23 September 1996.

Helmut Heissenbüttel

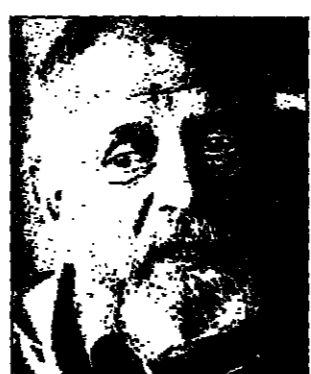
German writers after 1945 had more reason than before to reflect on the corruptibility of language and the merits of silence.

Many unadmittedly brief – and then settled down to more or less traditional forms of story-telling or poetry. Others, from the 1950s on, were more radical, exploring the possibility of fresh starts via language stripped and re-ordered. Their centre was Vienna but Helmut Heissenbüttel, born at the opposite end of German-speaking lands in Wilhelmshaven, was equally radical and more independent of groupings. Moreover his fascination with the limits and the resources of language never flagged over almost four decades. Although his own literary practice and his thinking about literature were never other than measured and reflective, he became, as the years passed, a living reminder of those distant, heady days of linguistic experiment.

Heissenbüttel was born in 1921, served in the Second World War until seriously wounded (he lost an arm) in 1942 and then studied – first in Dresden and Leipzig, after the war in Hamburg – Architecture, Art History and German, a combination that may well be

reflected in his tireless interest in typography, layout and in concrete modes of writing.

In 1957, already author of two volumes of experimental texts (*Kombinationen*, 1954, and *Topographien*, 1956) and a recipient of a literary award from Hamburg, he became editor of the "Radio-Essay", a department of South German Radio in Stuttgart. For over 20 years, until 1981, he was at the centre of a creative enterprise that was a distinguishing feature of German writing in the 1950s and 1960s – the radio play was a form that engaged a surprisingly large number of Germany's leading writers.



Heissenbüttel: "trying things out"

The radio play was a natural medium for a writer interested in the distance between language and the visible, material world. In the modern, post-realist world language was no longer able, in Heissenbüttel's view, to reflect or penetrate a reality beyond itself, no longer anchored by systems of thought and literary practice. What was needed was "a new and radical nominalism... that takes words as objects, structuring words to form a new reality, not figuratively standing for something, but like a second reality".

In practice, Heissenbüttel was neither as prescriptive nor as divorced from reality as he might sound. He rejected even the word experiment – it suggested too clear a sense of purpose – preferring *Ausprobieren* ("trying things out"). In much the same spirit, he published his poems and other pieces from 1960 onwards in *Textbücher*, thus avoiding any kind of genre definition. His refocusing on language as language might seem impoverishing – he quotes more than once Paul van Ostaen's claim that "the most beautiful poem about a fish is the word fish" – but he demonstrates with great virtuosity and in a variety of forms how far a

return to linguistic basics can enrich the range both of poetry and of short prose.

Even a poem like the following, creating visual order out of a trivial occasion, makes something memorable out of one man, one bench, one hand, one dried biscuit – and crumbs:

I Mann auf I Bank
I Zwieback in I Hand
I Mann in I Hand und
I Zwieback in Hand und
I Zwieback in Hand und
I Zwieback in Hand und
I Zwieback in Hand und
I Zwieback in Hand und
I Zwieback in Hand und
I Zwieback in Hand und

Krümel

Non-literary everyday usage, newspaper reports, the language of politics and bureaucracy supplied Heissenbüttel with raw material (in his term) for collage or interlocking or interrupted quotation or for teasingly repetitive demonstrations of language growing circular or contradicting itself. The results could be taxing (the quotations were always unattributed) and yet language, however rearranged, pointed back time and again, often wittily, sometimes menacingly, to the users of language.

Heissenbüttel was most at

home in short forms. He attempted, however, one full-scale work, the novel *D'Alembert's Ende* ("D'Alembert's End", 1970), in which nine people in one day exhibit the linguistic habits, the colloquialisms, the jargon of their class and their profession in exchanges which flatten out plot and character in a tortuous display of language in use. That novel has been more acknowledged than admired; indeed Heissenbüttel himself, perhaps inevitably, has enjoyed much esteem (he was awarded the Böttcher Prize in 1969) but little popularity. Yet his dominant presence in the field of linguistic "trying things out" has been recognised by generations of young, would-be innovative poets right into the 1990s.

"Everything is possible, everything can still be said," thus Heissenbüttel in 1965. It was his motto for decades, fascinatingly exemplified, and others have adopted it.

Philip Brady

Helmut Heissenbüttel, writer, born Wilhelmshaven, Germany 21 June 1921; married 1954 Ida Warnholz (one son, three daughters); died Göttingen, Germany 19 September 1996.

Hiroshi Fujimoto

Few English tourists in Paris would think of visiting the Librairie Tonkam (29 rue Keller) or Samourai (42 rue de Mauberge), just a few steps from the Gare du Nord. Yet these are two of the most fascinating bookshops in the capital, for they are full of Japanese *manga*, which the cartoonist Kensei Hirokane recently defined at the Festival d'Annecy devoted to cartoon comics as "graphic novels".

The craze for *manga* comics and their animated movie versions has reached epidemic proportions in Japan, South-East Asia and Europe. Even my small TV Andorra station regularly screens Japanese comic serials like *Dragon Ball*, *Akira* and *Goldorak*. *Dragon Ball Z*, the movie version, broke box-office records in France, at the same time sparking off parental protests about its violence and sexual content. When Hayao Miyazaki's brilliantly funny and technically innovative *Porco Rosso* hit the movie screens in Paris in 1995, it even outlasted Sharon Stone in *Basic Instinct* for several weeks of its run, and it is still being regularly re-issued.

Hiroshi Fujimoto was one of the moving spirits in the great surge of enthusiasm in Japan for *manga* magazines, books and movies. He worked in tandem with a close friend from school days, Abiko Motoo, born like Hiroshi in Toyama Prefecture. His date of birth made him only three months Hiroshi's junior. They used the pen-name of Fujio-Fujiko and lived together in the same small apartment in downtown Tokyo until their success as cartoonist storytellers allowed them to marry and buy palatial adjoining residences for their families.

Fujio-Fujiko first achieved fame with the children's comic tale *Obake no Kisyato*, popularly called "Oba-Q". After it appeared in February 1964 in

Shonen Sande ("Shonen Sunday") magazine, its success was so meteoric, the publisher changed his magazine from a monthly to a weekly, starting the strange amorphous figure of Oba-Q which soon began to turn up everywhere as toys and on posters and children's clothes.

This success was followed by *Ninja Hattori-kun*, which, as the title suggests, was a spoof on the classic *Panama*, an amiable idiot and above all the greatest children's icon ever since the Seventies, Doraemon.

It is hard to explain to Westerners the perverse fascination of this atomic-powered robotic cat. It far surpasses in originality our own insufferable cat Garfield.

The bicephalous authors first unleashed Doraemon in the pages of *Shogakukan*, a comic weekly of the standard 300-page format, in 1970. In a typical childhood fantasy, the little boy Nobita, a bookish, bespectacled nerd, discovers this cute, cool, magical cat in the drawer of the desk at which all Japanese children slave over their homework. Doraemon is smart, with three spiky whiskers on either side of a capacious mouth, and a sort of kangaroo pouch from which he produces all kinds of astonishing things, including a miniature helicopter that enables him to zoom around the room and the countryside.

He is surely a small child's dream-fulfillment fantasy of an all-powerful protector in a harsh adult world of endless sweating and school bullying. Like many Japanese robot figures, Doraemon is at the opposite pole to frightening cyborg creatures with surrealistic armour and deadly weapons like atomic ray guns. He is reassuring, despite his odd behaviour, and much easier for a child to identify with than with a cold, calculating machine hero. Sales of Doraemon books



Doraemon, Fujio-Fujio's atomic-powered robotic cat

and merchandising reached phenomenal heights when the first annual animated version appeared in 1979.

One of the most popular forms of *manga*, enjoyed by both children and adults, is the "how-to-succeed-in-business" story, which covers nearly every profession in Japan – sushi-maker, chess player, sportsman (particularly golfer and footballer and basketball), photographer and – of course – manga cartoonist. The story of their own lives together in *Manga Mechi* ("The Way of the Manga"), which became a highly successful television serial drama on NHK.

The adventures of Nobita and Doraemon now comprise 50 stout volumes, with sales of over 50 million copies. Their combined personal income for the fiscal year 1980 was \$1.7m, and it has kept rising ever since. Fujio without Fujio is unthinkable. Death is something even Doraemon cannot overcome.

James Kirkup

Hiroshi Fujimoto, cartoonist, born Toyama, Japan 12 December 1933; married (three daughters); died Tokyo 23 September 1996.

Canon G. B. Bentley

G. B. Bentley was an outstanding priest of the Church of England and a remarkable person.

I got to know Bentley well during the last 11 years of his life, as his next-door neighbour in the Cloisters at Windsor Castle, where he was a Canon of St George's Chapel from 1957 (and an Honorary Canon from 1982), and as a friend and confidant up to the hour of his death. Although he was in considerable discomfort and distress towards the end, his mind remained acutely sharp, his last dispute being with God, who had called him, whilst still at school at Uppingham, in Rutland, to the priestly vocation.

He recalled very clearly how he tried to resist that call but he succumbed and was firm in his conviction and vocation all his life. He went on to King's College, Cambridge, from where he emerged as a distinguished scholar with a double First in Classics and Theology.

During an active and vigorous ministry which spanned close on 50 years, Bryan Bentley served as priest, pastor and scholar, as husband to Nina and father to two sons and two daughters. It was not possible to get all those things right all the time, but he left a remarkable legacy in each of those spheres of his life.

His intellectual abilities were recognised early in his ministry through his work at Lincoln, in college and cathedral, and his pastoral gifts in hospital and parish. He devoted much of his intellectual energy to moral theology and as one of the leading moral theologians of his day was a prime mover in the Church's efforts to establish a fruitful relationship between church and state law with regard to marriage and the family, not least through his work under

that title for the 1958 Lambeth Conference. The report *Putting Asunder* (1966) was very much his work and proved to be a forerunner of the recent divorce law reform. He was in correspondence with the Lord Chancellor almost to the end of his life, in support of the no-fault divorce recommendations.

He worked hard and conscientiously without the ambition and self-interest that can mar many a vocation. This, coupled with a scrupulously critical



Bentley: no easy vocation

mind, was doubtless why his writing was not more extensive, although between 1940 and 1965 he was the author of some half a dozen books.

Bryan Bentley exploded the silly myth that one is either good with one's head or one's hands. He was extremely good with both, having a dextrous touch for making things and an acute understanding of how things worked – he serviced his own car. Not only was he an innovative Proctor for many of the 25 years of his Windsor canonry but also an effective Steward of the buildings and the works which abounded in the place.

With regard to his long tenure as Canon of Windsor, followed by the unprecedented 14 years

as Honorary Residential Canon, he devoted considerable energy to the maintenance and understanding of the college and chapel traditions. What appeared to some as an over-zealous regard for the ancient statutes that bind the College of St George derived from a deep love and concern for the place and its continuing part in the life of the wider Church.

It has been said that he was in some ways a difficult person at times, but such is often the judgement of those who do not distinguish between the argument and the man. He was, above all, a seeker after truth for his own sake.

His life and work spanned a good deal of the 20th century; he was a living link with an earlier generation and a reminder of an age when men of ability and distinction responded more readily to the Church's call to ministry.

How one dies is largely dependent on how one has lived. Bentley's was no easy vocation. He was prepared to argue it out with his maker as he did with his friends. And through all this he increasingly displayed a warm and generous heart.

Derek Stanesby

Geoffrey Bryan Bentley, priest, born 16 July 1909; ordained deacon 1933, priest 1934; Assistant Curate, St Cuthbert's, Copnor 1933-35; Tutor of Scholae Cantuarii, Lincoln 1935-38; Lecturer 1938-52; Priest Vicar, Lincoln Cathedral 1938-52; Proctor in Convocation 1945-55; Rector, Milton Abbot with Dunstons 1952-57; Examining Chaplain to Bishop of Exeter 1952-74; Canon of Windsor 1957-82; Honorary Residential Canon 1982-96; married 1938 Nina Coombe (two sons, two daughters); died 12 September 1996.

Károlyi Károly, wrestler, died Budapest 23 September, aged 90. Won a silver medal at the 1932 Olympics and a gold in 1936.

Wrote five books on wrestling and *As Time Goes By*, a memoir. Bai Yang, actress, died Shanghai 18 September, aged 76.

Starred in 1930s silent Chinese films such as *At the Crossroads* and *The River Flows East*; her career spanned 60 years.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

CHAPMAN: Robert Gerald White (Peter) of Brundall in Norfolk on 24 September 1996, aged 94 years. Devoted husband of the late Kathleen, much-loved father of Gillian and Robin, dear grandfather of Harry and Jonathan, and friend to many. Enquiries to Peter Taylor Funeral Services (01603 760797).

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, independent to 0171-293 2811 or faxed to 0171-293 2818, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER (Deaths, Funerals, Marriages, Births) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

Birthdays

Professor Sir Arthur Amott, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, St Andrews University, 62; Mr Norman Ayton, theatre and opera director, 72; Mr Ronnie Barker, comedian and writer, 67; Mr Brian Bell, cricketer, 50; Mr Leon Brittan QC, a vice-president, European Commission, 57; Sir Colin Davis, conductor, 69; Mr Michael Douglas, actor, 52; Sir John Farr, former MP, 74; Mr Andrew Gardner, television presenter, 64; Sir Florizel Glaspole, former Governor-General of Jamaica, 37; Sir David Hunt, former diplomat and quiz-winner, 83; General Sir Edward Jones, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, 60; Miss Felicity Kendall, actress, 53; Professor Sir Edgar Mitchell, physicist, 71; Miss Juliet Prowse, singer and actress, 59; Mr Christopher Reeve, actor, 44; Mr Timothy Severin, author and explorer, 56; Mr Michael Stephen MP, 54; Miss Vivien Stern, director, Nacro, 55; Commandant Daphne Swallow, former director of the WRNS, 64; Miss Pamela Vining, former diplomat, 75; Miss Barbara Walters, television newscaster and

presenter, 65; Mr Nicholas Wood, President, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 48.

Anniversaries

Births: Matthew Merian the Elder, engraver and bookseller, 1593; Jacques-Benigne Bossuet, theologian, 1627; Jean-Philippe Rameau, composer, 1683; Abraham Gottlob Werner, geologist, 1750; George Frederic Peto, violinist and composer, 1786; Mrs Felicia Dorothea Hemans, poet, 1793; Henri Schaeffer, painter, 1798; William Michael Rosset, civil servant and brother of the poet, 1829; Karl Rindow, pianist and conductor, 1830; Leon Botemann, composer, 1842; Thomas Hunt Morgan, geneticist, 1866; Sir Charles Blake Cochran, impresario, 1872; John Howard Lawson, playwright, 1886; George Douglas Howard Cole, socialist and novelist, 1889; Roberto Harrison Faulkner, novelist, 1897; Mark Rothko (Marcus Rothkovich), painter, 1903; Dmitri Dmitriyevich

Shostakovich, composer, 1906; Robert Branson, film director, 1907. Deaths: Philip I, the Handsome, King of Spain, 1506; Samuel Butler, poet, writer and satirist, 1880; Johann Heinrich Lambert, mathematician, 1777; Richard Porson, scholar, 1808; Jacques-Etienne Joseph-Alexandre Macdonald, Duc de Tarente, soldier, 1840; Johann Baptist Strauss the Elder, composer, 1849; Albert Joseph Moore, decorative painter, 1893; Charles Cotter, painter, 1925; Helen Broderick, comedienne and actress, 1959; Emily Post (Price), writer and columnist, 1960; Erich Maria Remarque, novelist, 1970; Nikolai Tolstoy (Coco the Clown), 1974; Leopold III, former King of the Belgians, 1983; Walter Pidgeon, actor, 1984. On this day: King Harold II defeated his brother the Earl Tostig and King Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, 1066; Christopher Columbus set sail on his second voyage, 1493; the Pacific Ocean was discovered by Vasco Nunez de Balboa, 1513; *Publick Ornaments*, both Foreign and Domestic, the first American newspaper, was published in Boston by Benjamin Harris, but was immediately suppressed, 1690; the relief of Lucknow by Havelock and Outram began, 1857; the comedy opera *Dorothy* was first produced in London, 1876; the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London, opened, 1888; the first London performance of the musical show *The Dollar Princess* was presented, 1909; the battleship *Liebert* exploded, causing 226 deaths in Toulon Harbour, 1911; the Battle of Loos began, 1915; the German High Commissioner in Norway set up a government with Vidkun Quisling at its head, 1940; the first transatlantic telephone cable between America and Britain (Newfoundland-Oban) came into use, 1956; in a referendum, Norway voted against joining the Common Market, 1972; the first London performance of the musical show *Step by Step* was presented, 1984. Today is the Feast Day of St Albert of Jerusalem, St Anthonio or Anthony, St Geoffrey or Geoffrey, St Finbar (Fionn-Barth) or Baire and St Firminus of Amiens.

Institute of Physics

The following have been elected Council Members of the Institute of Physics:

Dr Brian Manley, President; Sir Arnold Wolfenden, Immediate Past President; Mr John Lewis, Honorary Treasurer; Professor Eric Johnson, Honorary Secretary; Professor Ian Butterworth, Professor Peter Kilmartin, Mr John Moore, Dr Tony Scott, Vice-Presidents.

Appointments

Mr Timothy Andrew Wigram Lloyd QC, Mr Timothy Edward Walker QC, Mr David Edmund Neuberger QC, to be Justices of the High Court. The Duke of Gloucester, to be Patron, Royal Pioneer Corps Association.

Will

Mr Vivian John Herman Ellis, of London W8, the composer, left estate valued at £1,473,723 net. He left a pointing by Noel Coward to the Garrick Club. Mr Simon Cadell, of Framlington, Suffolk, the actor, left estate valued at £134,124 net.

Mr Patrick Cargill, of Lower Ascot, Henley on Thames, the actor, left estate valued at £110,729 net.

Church appointments

The Right Rev Peter Coleman, formerly Suffragan Bishop of Crediton (Exeter), to be an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Bath and Wells. The Right Rev Edwin Barnes, Bishop of Richmond and Provincial Episcopal Visitor, to be also an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban (St Albans). The Ven Trevor McCabe, Archdeacon of Cornwall, to be also Chairman of the Cornwall College of Preachers (Truro).

RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS The Right Rev Ronald Gordon, Canon and Sub Dean of Christ Church, Oxford (Oxford), to retire 31 October.

Prebendary Charles Moore, Prebendary of Wells Cathedral (Bath and Wells), retired 31 August; now appointed a Prebendary of Exeter. Canon Geoffrey Davies, Vicar, Lynn (Lincoln), retired as Rural Dean of Great Northwold on 31 July, and returns as Vicar, Lynn 6 October.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal, President, the British Olympic Association, attends the National Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting at the Cadogan Hotel, London W1 and attends a reception for the Harlequin Tropical Diseases at the Royal College of Physicians, London NW1. Princess Margaret, President, the Guide Association, gives a reception for Queen's Guides at Kensington Palace. The Duchess of Gloucester visits Kew's Fresh Food, Weymouth, Dorset.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Wales moves to Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace. The Duchess of Gloucester visits Kew's Fresh Food, Weymouth, Dorset.

Lectures Victoria and Albert Museum, Diana Perry Aldrich, "The Victorian View of Remembrance: Sculptural Depictions", 2.30pm. National Gallery, Alexander S. Frutkin, "The Florentine: Cosimo de' Medici", 1pm.

هذا من الاصل



Foreign Exchange Rates									
STERLING					DOLLAR			D-MARK	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months		Spot	1 month	3 months		
US	15590	5-3	5-4		1000				65020
Canada	23008	11-3	10-7		1000	2-1	2-4		65020
France	12078	8-10	8-10		1000	28-26	86-83		10000
Germany	71922	10-1	9-37		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Italy	20712	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Japan	20712	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
ECU	12285	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Belgium	10275	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Netherlands	22458	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Sweden	60275	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Norway	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Spain	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Greece	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Portugal	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Switzerland	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Hong Kong	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
India	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Malaysia	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
New Zealand	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
South Africa	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
Singapore	10072	10-1	10-1		1000	44-43	123-126		336-4
OTHER SPOT RATES									
Country	Starting	Dollar	Country	Starting	Dollar	Country	Starting	Dollar	
Argentina	1552	100/47	Nigeria	12478	80/80				
Australia	1552	100/47	Oman	6001	23/20				
Brazil	1552	100/47	Pakistan	45703	33/30				
China	1552	100/47	Peru	34033	15/10				
ECU	1552	100/47	Philippines	5172	10/10				
France	1552	100/47	Portugal	84024	54/30				
Germany	1552	100/47	Rwanda	42/50	33/30				
Greece	1552	100/47	South Africa	7293	43/52				
India	1552	100/47	Tanzania	10/10	10/10				
Italy	1552	100/47	Thailand	10/10	10/10				
Japan	1552	100/47	United States	10/10	10/10				
Note: Forward rates quoted here are at a discount (marked here) and at a premium (marked here) to the spot rate. For the most up-to-date forward exchange rates and other rates, call our sales department (800) 444-4444.									
Tourist Rates									
2 Days			5 Days			8 Days			
Australia/Dollar	1552	100/47	France/Franc	12700	82/80	New Zealand/Dollar	2157	86/50	
Austria/Schilling	1552	100/47	Germany/Mark	12700	82/80	Portugal/Escudo	523/500	523/500	
Belgium/Franc	1552	100/47	Italy/Lira	84000	100/100	Spain/Peseta	166/100	166/100	
Canada/Canadian Dollar	1552	100/47	Japan/Yen	10000	100/100	Switzerland/Franc	100/100	100/100	
Cyprus/Pound	1552	100/47	South Africa/Rand	10000	100/100	Turkey/Lira	10000	10000	
Denmark/Krone	1552	100/47	United States/Dollar	10000	100/100	United States/Dollar	10000	10000	

UNIT TRUST GUIDE

d	ex dividend
e	exit charge applies when units are sold
buy	formerly 'offer'
sell	formerly 'bid'
x	Non SIB recognised funds

Fed surprises markets by holding interest rates

RUPERT CORNWELL
and CHRIS GODSMARK

The US Federal Reserve yesterday took world financial markets by surprise by deciding to leave American interest rates unchanged.

The decision, taken by the Fed's open markets committee after a meeting in Washington, sent US shares soaring with the Dow Jones Index reversing a 30 point fall to show a 24 point gain within minutes of the announcement.

The decision, which had been keenly awaited on Wall Street, means that the key fed funds rate remains unchanged at 5.25 per cent.

Last night this was being seen as a setback for anti-inflation hawks at the Fed who had made no secret of their desire to see rates move higher to choke off inflation.

However, the failure to raise rates was a fillip for President Clinton who has been counting on a trouble-free economy in the run up to November's presidential elections.

A majority of US analysts had expected the Fed to raise rates, particularly after a leaked report last week showing that eight of its 12 regional Fed bank presidents supported a move upwards.

Philip Orlando, chief investment officer at Value Line Asset Management said the decision to leave rates unchanged was "fully justified given the complete absence of inflation". But Graham Tanka, president of Tanka Capital Management, said he was disappointed that the Fed had not taken "a golden opportunity to nudge rates on" as a pre-emptive strike against inflation.

The news bolstered the pound, but had little impact on the stock market, which was more preoccupied with speculation of a rise in US interest rates.

Shares on Wall Street went on a rollercoast ride after the Fed's announcement, with the Dow Jones Index reversing a 30 point fall to stand 24 points higher shortly after the announcement.

Watchdog uncovers water profits misuse

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator, yesterday revealed damning evidence showing for the first time how the 10 privatised water companies have used their profits to subsidise hundreds of millions of pounds of activities by a web of non-regulated businesses.

The extent of the conflicts of interest and cross-subsidies only emerged after six months of investigation by independent inspectors appointed by Ofwat, the industry watchdog. They uncovered huge discrepancies between different companies in the scale of trading between the main regulated water operation and unregulated subsidiaries set up after privatisation such as engineering consultancy, contracting and computer support.

The research suggested some of the companies had ignored guidelines published more than two years ago by Ofwat imposing a statutory duty to keep the regulated water businesses at arm's length from the quoted parent group.

Problems highlighted included cash paid by the regulated water operations to the parent company which was not directly linked to specific services, contracts awarded to in-house subsidiaries which were not put out to competitive tender and potential conflicts of interest where directors of the water divisions were also directors of the non-regulated businesses.

Mr Byatt said despite some changes made by the water companies since the investigation began, he remained concerned about a situation where they did a lot of their business with subsidiaries of the parent group.

The findings were seized upon by Labour, which said they vindicated warnings that privatised water companies were creaming off money to finance other activities. Frank Dobson, the party's environment spokesman, said: "It shows that the present regulatory arrangements are not up to the task of tracking what is actually going on."

However, Ofwat blamed the companies' auditors for not spotting their lack of compliance with the guidelines. He said: "It is not the regulator's job to audit company procedures... the reviews have shown the need for improved scrutiny of company compliance in this area by their auditors."

According to the regulator, the 10 privatised operations had sales of more than £300m in 1994-95. In the case of five out of the 10 companies, these subsidiary businesses derived more than a third of their business from the main water division.

Southern Water, which has since been taken over by Scottish Power, came off particularly badly, with 58 per cent of its non-regulated income derived from the water business. Southern also disclosed that not one of its contracts had been put out to competitive tender.

Companies' trading with subsidiaries (1994-95)			
Company	Trade with subsidiaries as % of regulated turnover	% of subsidiaries' turnover derived from regulated business	Contracts with subsidiaries not let by competitive tender as % of value
Anglian	4	35	58
Welsh Water	15	34	93
Northumbrian	9	20	97
North West	3	7	97
Severn Trent	6	23	92
Southern	19	58	100
South West	16	41	74
Thames	6	26	59
Wessex	2	1	34
Yorkshire	5	41	99



Still concerned: Ian Byatt is worried about water companies which do a lot of business with subsidiaries of the parent group
Photograph: Craig Easton

Court ruling leaves Brent Walker reeling

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

The future of Brent Walker hung in the balance last night after a French court ruled that the betting shops to pubs group should repay its former chairman and chief executive George Walker more than £6m. The decision threatened to trigger a promise from Standard Chartered, one of the company's biggest lenders, that it would put Brent Walker into receivership rather than pay anything to Mr Walker.



George Walker: Stands to get £6m after Paris decision

According to Mr Walker's solicitor, Michael Coleman, Standard Chartered wrote to Harkavys about a year ago saying it would pull the plug on Brent Walker if judgment was given in favour of Mr Walker in the court case. More recently, doubts had arisen about whether the bank would see the threat through, given the many disadvantages of doing so.

If Brent Walker, which continues to struggle under a £1.4bn debt mountain, were to be put into receivership the company would lose its stock market quotation and tax losses of up to £900m, which might be attractive to a bidder, would be lost.

The threat of receivership follows a summer of speculation over the future of Brent Walker's two main subsidiary companies, William Hill and the Pubmaster chain of mainly tenanted pubs.

Five venture capital groups are thought to be lined up to bid for the 1,700-strong chain of pubs after Hill Samuel, which advises the group, appeared to have failed to find a trade buyer for the outlets.

Laura Ashley continues recovery

NIGEL COPE

The recovery at Laura Ashley, the clothing and home furnishings group, took another step forward yesterday when the company announced its first interim dividend since 1989.

The announcement of a 73 pence increase in pre-tax profits to £5.2m for the six months to July.

In current trading Laura Ashley stores are enjoying strong sales increases in the UK though sales in the US show only a modest increase and are down sharply in Continental Europe.

due to the poor economic climate in some countries. Shares in the company fell 10 per cent to 193.5p as the results were below some analysts' expectations. There was also some profit taking after the shares' strong recent run.

Ann Iverson, the company's chief executive who joined the group last year, said she was encouraged by the performance so far. "It's been a good year for Laura Ashley. Some things have been easier, some have been tougher. But we're on track and we're very pleased about it."

Voting shake-up lifts Parker

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Cornwell Parker, maker of the famous Parker Knoll recliner armchair, saw its voting shares soar yesterday after bringing down the curtain on four generations of family dominance.

The 107-year-old company announced plans to end the dual share structure which gave voting control to the descendants of the founder, Frederick Parker. At the same time, the

two last remaining family representatives on the board are to relinquish executive duties, with chairman Martin Jourdan taking on a non-executive role.

News that holders of the voting shares are to receive a two-for-three scrip issue to compensate for loss of control sent the thinly traded shares 65p ahead to 240p. They are now 100p higher than where they were at the start of September. The non-voting A shares were left almost unmoved by the day's events, slipping 0.5p to 165p.

Analysts had been expecting moves to update the share structure since the arrival last year of a new chief executive, James Moore, who has been shaking up the business. Yesterday, he unveiled pre-tax losses deepened from £336,000 to £1,088,000 for the year to July. Excluding exceptional items, profits jumped from £1,044m to £3.6m.

Telewest rejects GSB channels

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Telewest, the UK's largest cable operator, is refusing to carry seven new television channels backed by media giants BSkyB and Granada until it has canvassed its subscribers about whether they are willing to pay for the services.

The move by Telewest will put the ante in the continuing battle between BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster, and the UK's cable operators, which have complained in the past about BSkyB's dominant position in the pay-television market.

According to Telewest sources, the decision was prompted by its concern that subscribers would be unwilling to pay an extra £1 a month for their basic cable television package in order to meet the costs of adding seven channels offered by Granada Sky Broadcasting (GSB), a joint venture between Granada and BSkyB. Sources at Granada said the move was purely a negotiating tactic to extract better terms from GSB.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3919.50	-0.20	-0.2	3977.20	3632.30
FTSE 250	4388.20	-6.40	-0.2	4568.60	4015.30
FTSE 350	1952.60	-4.20	-0.2	1985.80	1816.60
FT Small Cap	2175.42	-4.60	-0.2	2244.38	1954.06
FT All Share	1929.88	-4.14	-0.2	1961.01	1791.58
New York	5988.45	-5.20	-0.1	5994.74	5932.94
Tokyo	2171.99	-59.78	-2.7	2266.80	1974.70
Hong Kong	11546.70	-75.43	-0.6	11622.13	10204.87
Frankfurt	2638.45	+11.41	+0.4	2645.63	2253.36

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year
0.50	5.81	6.12	7.80	7.99	7.92
0.50	5.81	6.12	8.80	6.28	7.02
0.50	5.81	6.12	2.85	2.81	2.81
0.50	5.81	6.12	6.16	6.56	6.86

CURRENCIES					
Unit	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Unit	Yesterday
£ (London)	1.5680	+0.11c	1.5680	£ (London)	0.6419
£ (New York)	1.5685	+0.15c	1.5689	£ (New York)	0.6415
DM (London)	2.3578	+0.14c	2.2812	DM (London)	1.9132
¥ (London)	171.014	+0.004	168.616	¥ (London)	108.785
₹ (London)	88.2	+0.1	84.7	₹ (London)	97.0

OTHER INDICATORS					
Indicator	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Indicator	Yesterday
Oil Brent \$	22.45	+0.55	16.04	RPI	153.1
Gold \$	382.05	+0.60	383.55	2.1pc	148.8
Gold £	245.22	+0.21	244.47	10.0pc	25.04
				Base Rates	-5.75pc

كلوا من اذلا



Byatt cannot wash his hands of water scandal

COMMENT

This drip-drip process of siphoning money from one pot to another – otherwise known as transfer pricing – has been going on for seven years without Ofwat apparently noticing.

Somehow it sticks in the craw to have to agree with Frank Dobson but for once Labour's environment spokesman is right when he complains that Ofwat may not be up to the job of regulating the privatised water companies.

The report yesterday by the director-general of Water Services, Ian Byatt, highlighting the way that the 10 companies have been feather-bedding their non-regulated businesses at the expense of customers of their core water and sewage businesses is shocking enough.

What is more disturbing, however, is that this drip drip process of siphoning money from one pot to another – otherwise known as transfer pricing – has been going on for seven years without Ofwat apparently noticing.

But what takes the biscuit for sheer audacity is Mr Byatt's calm assertion that it is all the fault of the auditors. If Ofwat is not there to police and prevent this sort of behaviour through the licence conditions laid down for the privatised water companies then what is it there for?

Ofwat is hardly short of the requisite powers to stop this sort of thing and yet the floodgates appear to have been stuck on open since privatisation in 1989. The water industry's record on diversification into non-regulated businesses has been appalling. When those associate companies rely upon the regulated business for more than half their turnover, the scope for abuse becomes even more apparent.

And abuse there has been by the bucketful, from charging central costs only to profitable parts of the group to letting contracts to associate companies without a single competitive tender.

Mr Byatt says he has now spoken to the offending companies and they have agreed to "remedy their practices in line with Ofwat's wishes". You bet they have. That may not be the end of the story. Transfer pricing is the kind of phrase that makes taxmen prick up their ears and scent blood. There is enough in the Ofwat report to merit close scrutiny.

As for Mr Byatt, he has rather blotted his copybook and his reputation as the most capable and astute of the regulators by publishing the evidence only to then wash his hands of responsibility.

Better to lead than to be pushed

The family shareholders at Parker Knoll have declined in the executive chairs that made it so famous, taken a long, hard look at what happens to those who try to hold back the tide of privatisation and sensibly decided to abandon the company's dual share structure.

This, of course, is not an act of pure philanthropy, borne out of higher motives such as a belief in shareholder democracy. The two-for-three scrip issue that the 40-odd

family shareholders will enjoy provides them with a highly lucrative exit route from a business that most of them have probably long since lost interest in, especially after it was renamed Cornwell Parker.

In this day and age a company controlled by those holding just 7 per cent of the shares in issue is not, in any event, a tenable proposition long term. It was only a matter of time before the holders of non-voting shares – one 93 per cent of the shareholder base – began agitating for change.

Nevertheless, the Parkers and the Jourdan, the two founding families behind the business, deserve two cheers for passing it on to a new set of shareholders in a manner most likely to ensure its continued success.

It was Martin and Tom Jourdan, the two remaining family members on the board, who decided to bring in a new chief executive, James Moore, give him a free hand to overhaul the strategy and then volunteer to step aside.

Dual voting structures are anachronisms. They make for illiquid stocks, depress share prices and increase the cost of raising capital. But there are more compelling reasons for abandoning such structures.

At Liberty, the Stewart-Liberty family hung on to their voting shares for grim death and look what happened. A South African interloper broke up the cosy party and two changes of management later the business is only just recovering from a torrid five years of guerrilla warfare among shareholders.

In opting for enfranchisement, Cornwell Parker is following an increasingly well-worn path already trodden by the likes of GUS, Greenalls and more recently Pifco. But there are still some dinosaurs out there. Schroders, the Savoy Group and even the mighty Daily Mail & General Trust may care to reflect that it is better to lead rather than be pushed.

A plan to reduce the annual angst

The average annual meeting is a mind-numbingly boring ritual at which shareholders and managers meet, talk, but fail abysmally to communicate.

Even the Department of Trade and Industry has acknowledged that the shambles of the agm does no credit to the shareholder democracy it has been trying to encourage.

In April it published a consultation document containing some ideas that would give shareholders more opportunity to get meaningful answers out of their boards. With the threat of government intervention in the air, the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, representing the company secretaries who stage the ancient and dishonoured ritual, stepped in yesterday with a voluntary guide to good practice at agms.

There was an audible sigh of relief from the DTT, which loves a good voluntary code of practice since it allows ministers to avoid doing anything themselves.

The guide includes a new requirement that all directors, not just non-executives, must put themselves up for re-election by rotation. But like the DTT, the company secretaries pour cold water on radical proposals from shareholder activists to force institutions to cast their vote on every issue, and to make it mandatory for companies to pay the costs of circulating shareholder resolutions.

The most interesting idea from the secretaries is a cheap and easy way to give more influence to the vast numbers of pension fund and other investors whose shareholdings are aggregated in fund managers' nominee companies.

At present, the nominee company can appoint just one representative to speak at the annual meeting. With many pension funds now managed by vast City organisations, their individual voices have been silenced. The DTT suggested a change in the law to allow the individual pension fund trustees and other investors represented by the fund managers to speak at agms.

But company secretaries reckon the same result can be achieved effortlessly, without legislation, if the nominees issue a separate proxy card to each of the shareholders they represent. The board should then use its existing powers to waive the rule banning proxies from speaking.

The idea is so simple it is odd that it has not been thought of before. Perhaps it ought to be incorporated in the Stock Exchange listing rules.

Rank buys Cobleigh in £96m deal

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Another fortune was made in the booming eating-out market yesterday after Rank paid £95.6m for Tom Cobleigh, a chain of 44 managed pubs that was started from scratch only four years ago. Derek Mapp, Cobleigh's managing director who chipped in £170,000 in 1991 to acquire the group's first pub, stands to pocket £6.4m from the deal.

The other main beneficiary of the sale is European Acquisition Capital, a venture capital group that invests funds mainly for pension funds, which has transformed its original £10m investment into £47.5m. EAC put the group into play earlier this summer when it indicated it wanted an exit, either through a placing or trade sale.

Mr Mapp said he was happy with the sale to Rank, which has allowed him and three other founder directors to realise their investment while remaining with the company to achieve their ambition of building Tom Cobleigh, which trades under the motto "Unspilt Pubs for Nice People", into a national brand.

Neither the founders, who have committed to stay with Rank for three years, nor EAC sold any shares on flotation less than a year ago when Cobleigh

raised £22m via a placing of shares at 150p. Rank's takeover, which is understood to have beaten a rival offer from Yates Wine Lodges, was pitched yesterday at 240p.

Andrew Teare, new chief executive at Rank, said the acquisition was in line with his recently stated strategy of concentrating on the group's leisure retailing activities while withdrawing from its long standing investment in the Xerox office machines business. He denied the deal meant Rank was poised to make a string of pub acquisitions.

He said Rank would accelerate Tom Cobleigh's already ambitious opening programme which had envisaged 16 new openings this year. A similar level of new pub openings is planned for the next two years leaving us with 80 plus units and an extended geographic profile.

Rank had considered setting up its own branded outlets, Mr Teare said, but buying Cobleigh had given it a five-year headstart. Rank's shares closed 7.5p lower at 431.5p as the market focused on the price being paid for the company which represented 27 times forecast earnings for the year to next March.

The acquisition is the latest in a run of fully-priced recent purchases of small entrepreneurial pub companies.



James Sexton (right) and Colin Rowley, finance director, celebrating the group's first year on the Alternative Investment Market with a 62 per cent rise in annual profits to £18.6m. Stripping out a £7.45m part of the relocation of the South-east Daily Echo and other Southampton-based weekly titles, operating profits only edged ahead, however. The group said the current year would see the virtual completion of

printing operations, although the full benefits will not come through until next year. The group is raising the dividend by 15 per cent to 17.75p.

Photograph: News Team

IoD warning against tax cuts

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

The Institute of Directors yesterday issued a stark warning to the Government not to cut taxes in November's Budget, urging the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, instead to correct an "alarming" deterioration in public finances.

In its pre-budget submission, written by Stephen Davies, a former senior Treasury economic

adviser, the IoD called for £7bn to be slashed from Government revenues. Savings of £5bn could come from public spending cuts and a further £2bn from the Treasury's reserves.

Tim Melville-Ross, the IoD's director-general, said: "Progress on sorting out the public finances has simply not been achieved... I think it would not be too strong a word to say we're alarmed by the lack of progress in that direction."

The IoD said the state of the public finances was getting "ever more disturbing" as tax revenues fell short of Treasury predictions. In addition, lower-than-expected inflation meant Government spending plans for 1997/98 were more generous than they appeared in cash terms.

Mr Melville-Ross said the IoD had received "virtually no calls" from members urging further tax cuts. "Even your

average Conservative voter understands the wisdom of a prudent budget", he said.

But the IoD admitted that the Chancellor was almost certain to ignore the advice and press ahead with tax cuts. Today the CBI will issue a similar call for a "prudent budget". "There's clearly strong political pressure on the Chancellor to cut taxes... I suspect he will put £1bn or £2bn into income tax reductions," Mr Melville-Ross explained.

IN BRIEF

• Leading accountancy firms Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young moved closer to registering their UK operations in Jersey after the island's parliament yesterday passed a law that would provide auditors with greater protection against law suits by allowing limited liability partnerships. The firms are likely to vote on a move to Jersey if – as expected – the law is sanctioned by the Privy Council later this year. The development comes as the Government is considering amending the UK law on joint and several liability, under which an auditor can be held responsible for the whole loss in a corporate collapse regardless of the extent of his or her fault.

• Siebe has agreed to acquire Mannesmann Demag's Compressed Air Division for £20.3m cash, equivalent to the division's book value. The division, which designs and manufactures industrial and portable compressors, airtools and related equipment, will be integrated into Siebe's CompAir Division.

• Refuge Group is continuing to explore ways to create a new security for its shareholders to take account of the valuation of its long-term funds. It will therefore revise its formal offer for the share capital of United Friendly and will despatch its revised formal offer to shareholders no later than 30 September.

• Royal Doulton agreed a £5.47m bid for Cathness Glass Limited yesterday in a deal which should be earnings enhancing in the first full year after acquisition. Alistair Mair, Cathness chairman and managing director, will remain with the company along with other senior executives.

• John David Sports issued the pathfinder listing particulars for its proposed flotation by means of a placing of existing and new ordinary shares. The placing will raise approximately £8.9m and be used to strengthen its balance sheet, provide financial resources to proceed with planned store openings and provide additional working capital and financial flexibility.

• Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation, which operates three services from Portsmouth in addition to its Dover-Calais crossing, said traffic on all Continental routes in the year to end-August was down by 11 per cent year-on-year. Car traffic was down by 15 per cent. Its market share of the Dover-Calais service fell from almost 39 per cent to 30 per cent. Eurotunnel claims it has a 44 per cent share of the Dover-Calais traffic.

• Guinness marked the official opening of its 1,000th Irish theme pub world-wide with a new Molly Darcy's outlet the heart of Vienna's first district. It is the first traditional Irish pub to open in Austria under the Guinness Irish pub concept established in 1992 and Guinness expects to open other such pubs in Austria.

• Lasmo received consent from the Department of Trade & Industry to develop the Boulton gasfield in the southern North Sea. Co-venturers with Lasmo in the development are Conoco (operator) and British Borneo. Lasmo expects production to begin in the second quarter of 1998.

Take advantage of this great culinary offer with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday and savour a taste of France at a very special price.

We have joined forces with Café Rouge, the restaurant chain that offers straightforward French cooking at value for money prices, to offer you the chance to sample the new autumn menu at a unique rate. Together with a friend, you can enjoy a two course lunch plus coffee, worth up to £13, for just £5 each, or a three course evening meal plus coffee, worth up to £18, for just £10 each. Service is included in both prices.

There are 66 Café Rouge restaurants, located in England and Scotland, which are participating in our offer. For further details, see our list printed on the right.

How to Qualify
To qualify for the offer, simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in The Independent and Independent on Sunday. If you have a Starter Token, it can be used instead of a numbered token, but only one Starter Token can be used to make up your token collection.

Attach two tokens to one of the special vouchers printed in the paper (each of which bears a third token) and take it to your nearest Café Rouge between 30 September and 13 October inclusive, to enjoy one of our two great offers – lunch for £5 or dinner for £10. You must identify yourself as an Independent / Café Rouge Voucher Holder and present your voucher and tokens on arrival at the restaurant. You will be given a copy of our extensive menu, details of which are printed on this page.

Today we print Token 5; Token 6 will be printed in tomorrow's paper. Our first voucher was printed in Monday's Independent, further vouchers will be printed on Thursday 26 and Sunday 29 September.

If you want to try both of our superb offers of lunch for £5 and dinner for £10, you can do so. Just remember to collect three differently numbered tokens plus a voucher for each offer.

Tokens can be redeemed at any time between 30 September and 13 October 1996 inclusive.

Terms and Conditions
1. The offer entitles two people to either lunch for £5 each or dinner for £10 each when a voucher and three differently numbered tokens are presented at one of the Café Rouges listed in our promotion.
2. Only one Starter Token can be used instead of a numbered token.
3. The cost of drinks is not included in either offer and a 12.5% optional service charge will be added to the cost of any drinks or purchases additional to the offer.
4. Photocopies of tokens and vouchers are not acceptable.
5. The offer is valid from 30 September to 13 October 1996.
6. For readers who have an Independent/Café Rouge promotional postcard, this qualifies as a voucher. It can be redeemed at any Café Rouge restaurant listed in our promotion, as long as two differently numbered tokens are attached, alongside your Starter Token.
7. Offer does not apply to Café Rouge Dublin.



THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Lunch for £5, Dinner for £10

at **CAFÉ ROUGE**
RESTAURANT BAR CAFE



CAFÉ ROUGE RESTAURANTS

LONDON:
Battersea, Blackheath, Canary Wharf, Chelsea, Chiswick, Clapham, Crouch End, Dulwich, Ealing, Earlsfield, Fetter Lane, Fulham, Fulham Palace Road, Friar Street, Hampstead, Hays Galleria, Highgate, James Street, Kensington, Kew, Knightsbridge, Limehouse Lane, Maida Vale, Old Brompton Road, Portobello, Putney, Richmond, Sheen, Southgate, Shepherd's Bush, Strand On The Green, Wandsworth, Wellington Street, West Hampstead, Whiteleys, Wimbledon, St John's Wood.

OUTSIDE LONDON:
Aberdeen, Bath, Beckenham, Birmingham, Brentwood, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Dorking, Edinburgh, Esher, Glasgow, Guildford, Harrogate, Henley, High Wycombe, Kingston Hill, Knutsford, Loughborough, Manchester, Oxford, Pinner, Reigate, Staines, Salisbury, Weybridge, Wiltshire.

If you are not sure where your nearest Café Rouge is, simply call 0171 478 8042 for details. Opening hours are Mon-Sat: 11am-11pm, Sun 10am-10.30pm. For city branches, check with your local Café Rouge.

THE INDEPENDENT

SPECIAL OFFER MENU

£5 Lunch

Hors d'Oeuvres
Salade de Merguez
Salad of Warm Spicy Sausage with Red & Green Peppers
or
Salade de Bleu d'Auvergne
once Noix
Little Gem Lettuce with Blue Cheese and Walnuts
Plats Chauds
Steak and Grilled
Béarnaise, Pommes
de Terre Rissolées
Grilled Salmon with Rissolées
Potatoes
or
Poulet Rôti au Gratin
Dauphinois
Roast Breast of Chicken with Dauphinois Potatoes
Filter coffee

£10 Dinner

Hors d'Oeuvres
Soupe de Poissons
Mediterranean Fish Soup with Croutons, Rastille and Grapese Cheese
or
Terrine Maison
Pâté of Chicken Liver flavoured with Madeira, Served with Bread
Plats Chauds
Navarin d'Agneau
Traditional Lamb stew cooked on the bone
or
Marmite Dippoise
Normandy Fish Stew of Scallops, Mussels, Prawns and Salmon finished with Mushrooms and Cream
Desserts
Oranges Caramélisées
Caramelised Oranges,
Cinnamon Ice Cream
Profiteroles Sauce Caramel
Profiteroles filled with Vanilla Ice Cream, Buttered Sauce
Filter coffee

12.5% Service Charge included

Tarmac finds recovery elusive

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

As Britain's biggest civil engineering and contracting group, Tarmac ought to have good idea of the lie of the land. The trouble is the company has developed a reputation for erring on the side of optimism too often. Its most costly error was to badly misread the housing market – a decision that ultimately resulted in last year's £600m asset swap with Wimpey's minerals and construction business.

Yesterday Neville Sturges, Tarmac's chief executive, again brushed aside the gloom and doom emanating from rival contractors. In particular, he highlighted the cost benefits arising from integrating the Wimpey activities.

These are expected to yield more than £35m – twice as much as previously expected – and will put Tarmac in a strong position when market conditions improve. However, evidence that such a recovery is in sight is as elusive as ever.

In the year to June, underlying pre-tax profits fell to £6.7m from £29.1m, at the bottom of market forecasts, due to tough markets and bad weather. Including a £65m exceptional charge for restructuring the Wimpey activities, including 1,400 redundancies of a 26,000 workforce, the half-time loss widened to £58.3m from £15.9m.

The biggest hit was taken in construction services. Profits here shrank from £5.5m to £700,000 as the design consultancy business slipped into a £2.5m loss, versus a £2.6m profit, after orders dried up. Mr Sturges admitted Tarmac, preoccupied with Wimpey, had taken its eye off the ball.

The heavy building materials division fared better, with profits rising a fraction to £39.7m. But the picture here is far from rosy given the heavy exposure to the UK roads programme, which is being cut to ribbons. Volume declines of up to 24 per cent cast doubt on Tarmac's ability to push through single-digit price increases for much longer.

Similarly, doubts must be expressed about Mr Sturges' enthusiasm for the Government's Private Finance Initiative, where Tarmac is in contract or preferred bidder for £800m of work. Few other contractors, or financiers, share Tarmac's belief in PFI's prospects.

Of equal concern is gearing of 66 per cent which must raise a question mark over the 5p dividend being maintained. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull has cut its forecast for pre-exceptional profits this year to £68m from £86m and has lowered its 1997 estimate to £94m from £114m. That implies a p/e of 19

Steep price for More O'Ferrall

More O'Ferrall, the billboards to illuminated bus shelters group, is the dream investment – it enjoys a dominant position in a fast growing sector and has plenty of scope to grow in mature overseas markets. It is well financed with available cash flow.

Interim figures yesterday came with some bad news – the O'Ferrall is to be dropped to better reflect the fact that Adshel, the fast growing bus shelter arm, is now as big a group terms as the core More O'Ferrall billboards operation. There was nothing else to complain about.

Pre-tax profits of £6.2m were 33 per cent higher than last year's first half £4.7m, struck from a 21 per cent increase in turnover from £39.3m to £47.8m. Earnings per share grew in line with profits to 12.4p and the interim payout rose 6 pence to 3.6p (3.4p). Strong cash flow helped debts fall 31 per cent to £10.2m.

Driving those good figures was a marked shift in advertising fashion, away from television, which no longer delivers the mass audiences of old, towards outdoor media. Blue-chip advertisers such as BMW, Kellogg's, Pepsi and Procter & Gamble have started using outdoor advertising for the first time this year, but even so 200 of the top 300 brands have never used it. There is plenty of scope for growth through new clients.

Elsewhere, More's new five-year plan envisages growth coming from diversifying away from bus shelters to backgrounds such as recycling bins and public toilets, from increasing yield per

site by using shorter campaigns and better illumination, and from expanding in new markets such as south-east Asia.

The problem with such attractive investments, of course, is that they come at a price. On the basis of forecast profits of about £18m this year the shares trade on a p/e of about 20 at 69.15p, down 2p. For a growth rate going forward in the mid to high teens that is pretty steep.

McKechnie is back on track

McKechnie, the plastic mouldings to fasteners group, has been a nice little earner over the years. Hit hard by recession, profits have recovered smoothly during most of the 1990s and, after a pause for breath last year, the group now looks on course to resume the growth track.

Yesterday's figures reflect de-stocking, especially by electronics and telecoms customers, plus the weak market for housing-related products like curtain rails, which hit McKechnie from the end of 1995. Pre-tax profits up 11 per cent to £50.3m in the 12 months to July were only kept moving by the £5.7m operating contribution from three acquisitions picked up during the year.

Even so, the strength of McKechnie's market positions meant it could squeeze another 1.5 points out of gross margins in the year.

The de-stocking problem now seems to have eased, while the recovery in UK housing sales should spell good news – around 15 per cent of sales, mostly fasteners, which currently go into aircraft should also prosper during the current boom in orders. There should be some growth in the automotive side, around a quarter of the group, which will be boosted by a first-time contribution from last month's £15.3m acquisition of Dzus, a maker of clips.

The only question mark is the fifth of sales made into the depressed Australian new housing market, although McKechnie is confident that will pick up next year. Meanwhile, gearing of 22 per cent leaves the management well placed for further acquisitions.

Profits of £62m this year would put the shares, up 22.5p at 53.1p, on a forward multiple of 13. Stay aboard.

TARMAC: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £957m, share price 69.15p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1996	Half year 1996
Turnover (£2m)	2.07	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
Pre-tax profits (£m)	43.1	107.3	20.3	15.9	58.3
Earnings per share (pence)	11.5	27.8	5.1	3.9	12.4
Dividends per share (pence)	5.5	5.5	5.5	3.0	3.0

Profit and turnover

£m

Turnover

Operating profit

Heavy building materials

Construction services

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

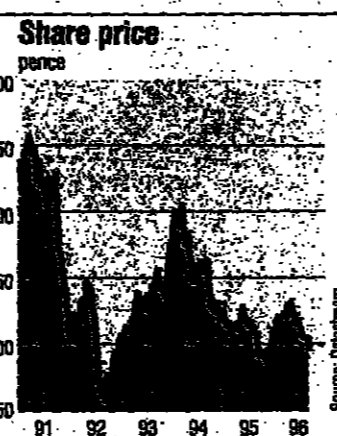
1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995

1996 1995



Chelsfield shifts focus with bid for Exclusive hotels

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

Chelsfield, the property company run by Elliott Bernerd, has entered the bidding for several of the Exclusive hotels being sold by Granada. Any acquisition would represent a further shift in emphasis towards the leisure industry for Chelsfield, which has a wide range of property interests including shopping centres, offices, a film studio and golf course, but as yet no hotels.

Mr Bernerd is understood to be interested in acquiring hotel rooms to serve its Wentworth golf course operation both near to the course and in central London. The Wentworth operation gives away large amounts of business to local and London hotels and its thought to be keen to claw some of it back.

Granada said recently it hoped to announce the disposal of the former Forte luxury hotels by the end of the year. Chelsfield already has in-house expertise in the hotel sector

through the head of the Wentworth business, Will Bauer, who used to run the Grosvenor House hotel in London.

Chelsfield's interest in hotels is in keeping with the company's move in recent years away from traditional property investments such as office blocks, which only limited scope for growth. He has focused instead on big retail and leisure investments such as the Merry Hill shopping centre in the West Midlands, Wentworth and a proposed 50,000 square foot centre at White City in West London, which Chelsfield is developing in partnership with Godfrey Bradman, the former head of Rosehaugh.

One office development, Wool House in London's Carlton Gardens, has been put on hold while the company determines whether to apply for permission to turn the site into luxury apartments. Chelsfield owns several riverside office buildings in London which it is planning to convert into resi-

dential schemes, including one next to the Globe Theatre recreation in Southwark.

News of Chelsfield's shift accompanied interim profit figures, which emerged at the top end of analysts' expectations with profits rising from £4.3m to £6m and net assets per share up from 174p to 197p. The shares closed 1p higher at 281p.

Mr Bernerd said Merry Hill continued to be the principal contributor to a strong rental income performance. Rents rose 14 per cent in the period to £17.4m. An application to build a 450,000 square foot extension to the shopping centre, which since June has been wholly owned by Chelsfield, is on the desk of the Environment Secretary, John Gummer. The project would involve a £100m investment.

Chelsfield has become one of the property sector's best-regarded companies since floating three years ago. Earlier this year it launched a £102m rights issue, 'Take up was over 99 per cent'

British Gas man to take top job at Enterprise Oil

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Enterprise Oil yesterday moved to ensure an orderly succession at the top after it announced that Pierre Jungels, head of exploration and production at British Gas, would take on the chief executive's job from Graham Hearne, who is also the oil group's long-standing executive chairman.

Mr Hearne will move to a non-executive role, while Mike Pink is to retire as managing director after two-and-a-half years in the job. He is expected to receive a payout not exceeding his annual salary of £230,000.

The appointment of Mr Jungels, a Belgian, who starts the £350,000-a-year post in January, sees shares in Enterprise 3.5p higher to 519p yesterday.

Mr Hearne is credited with building Enterprise into a major oil exploration and production group since its spin-off from British Gas in 1984, but he



Pierre Jungels: takes over from Graham Hearne

ing. "The 52-year-old Mr Jungels would be seen as a safe pair of hands, keeping the seat warm for the up and coming 'young turks' among the junior management at Enterprise," he added.

Mr Hearne said it would be his 60th birthday next year, the normal date for retirement at Enterprise. "I wrote the rule book to get a new chief executive after 13 years."

The board had been working on succession policy for some time and had always expected that Mr Pink, who also reaches retirement age next year, would bow out.

Mr Hearne said Mr Jungels would be "chief executive in every sense of the term", but he also said he intended to carry on as chairman for a few more years. Mr Jungels only joined British Gas at the end of last year, just before the group announced plans to break itself into two parts.

has not been popular with the City since the failure of his £1.6bn bid for rival Lasso two years ago.

One analyst said: "Graham Hearne fell out of favour during the bid for Lasso, so quite a lot of people will be glad to see the back of him. There is a certain amount of relief that he is going."

Blue Circle in joint venture to develop Kent land

Blue Circle Industries is forming a joint venture to develop its surplus land holdings, in particular the cement company's 2,250 acres in north-west Kent, where it has already submitted a planning application to develop 175 acres in the Ebbsfleet valley.

The venture is with Lend Lease and will be called White-

cliff, which will have a six-member board.

The total north-west Kent project envisages up to 5.3 million square feet of commercial development – and 3,200 new houses around the proposed international and domestic passenger station to be built on the Channel Tunnel rail link at Ebbsfleet.

The north west Kent area also includes the 1.6 million square feet Bluewater retail and leisure centre, in which Blue Circle and Lend Lease are already in partnership, and Blue Circle's 3 million square feet mixed use Business Park at Crossways.

Blue Circle hopes that outline planning permission for the development at Ebbsfleet will be granted in mid-1997, facilitating the first phase of commercial development to be ready for occupation in 2003, to coincide with the opening of the station.

At the outset, Stuart Hornery, chairman of Lend Lease, will be chairman of Whitecliff and Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive of Blue

Circle, will be deputy chairman. Tony Kemp, Blue Circle property director, will be the chief executive and John McCready, a director of Blue Circle Properties, will be chief operating officer.

Blue Circle said its group lands division will not be affected by the creation of the joint venture.

Airline awards take off without Branson

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

The Business Traveller Awards at the Savoy Hotel became a battle of the airline giants yesterday with Lord Young, Sir Freddie Laker and Richard Branson all in attendance. Sir Freddie had been lined up to present the award for best business class to Virgin. But the bearded wonder failed to show in time and Sir Freddie was left on the podium to accept the award on his behalf.

Lord Archer had already stepped up to present the next batch of awards when in a flurry of doors and linen garments, in walked the delayed Branson. He strode to the front table, sat in the wrong seat and had to be moved. "You just can't get the slots these days," quipped the compere.

Lord Archer could not resist poking fun as well. "You've just missed everything," he told the grinning Virgin chief. "There will now be a small hiss for the late Richard Branson," he said and the assembled throng duly obliged.

To add insult to injury, Branson then had to sit by while Lord Archer handed the rest of the airline awards to his *bête noire*, British Airways. BA chief executive Robert Ayling, who had managed to touch down at the Savoy in time and was sat on Branson's table, was able to scoop the awards while no doubt reveling in his rival's discomfort.

Sir Freddie Laker was on good form at the Business Traveller event, pleased as punch with the perfor-

mance of his new transatlantic airline, which he launched in April. A business class will be added early next year. (He hopes to take the award from Virgin in '97.) Further routes are also planned. "I'm loving it. It's great fun," he said.

But he expressed surprise when told that his old enemy Lord King was also at the event and even more surprised when he found they were seated at adjoining tables. "I've never met him," the former Skytrain king said. Lord King was also keen to play down past battles. "We're all trying to earn a living."

Ann Iverson, the Laura Ashley chief executive, is refusing to rise to the bait of Ikea's latest advertising, which extolls furniture buyers to "chuck out the chintz". Resplendent in a tres fashionable and un-chintzy "New Black" (brown) dress and matching "chocolate kisses" nail varnish, she said Laura Ashley would remain forever English. And if that means chintz then so be it. "It's a free world," she said. "Our customer research shows that they like the quintessentially English look. It's comfortable. It's comfortable. It's part of our culture. Are we going to throw that away? I don't think so."

Harrods Bank is upping the stakes in the private client banking world by targeting more women customers. General manager John Simmons is due to



Having fun: Sir Freddie Laker loves being back in the air Photograph: PH

regale the London Ladies club next month with a grandly tiled talk on "red carpet retail banking". For the bargain price of £5, ladies who lunch get to hear all about the grace and favour of posh banking where, in Harrods' case, there are no bank charges as long as your deposit does not dip below the poverty line. That means £1,000.

Harrods Bank is also co-sponsoring a recital at the Wigmore Hall, London by forte-pianist Mehryn Tan. The sponsorship is part of a deal between Harrods and the bank to promote the bank's musical instrument loan scheme and a

new piano called the Knightsbridge being sold exclusively by the top store. With the Harrods coat of arms in gold plate, the piano costs a tuneal £7,000.

Sir John Gray, who retires as Britain's ambassador to Belgium next month, is to join IMC Consulting Group of Cardiff as associate director. He has held a number of senior diplomatic posts with a strong commercial emphasis in London, the Middle East and Europe.

Nigel Cope

Druck Holdings p.l.c.

(Registered in England under Number 978842)

Introduction to the Official List

sponsored by

Kleinwort Benson Securities Limited

or

the 30,738,657 Ordinary Shares of Druck Holdings p.l.c.

Authorised		SHARE CAPITAL		Issued and fully paid	
Number	Amount			Number	Amount
46,440,437	£2,322,021.85	Ordinary Shares of 5p each		30,738,657	£1,536,932.85
33,559,563	£1,677,978.15	'N' Ordinary Shares of 5p each		33,559,563	£1,677,978.15

The principal activity of the Group is the manufacture and sale of electronic pressure and temperature calibration devices. The Company's products are used primarily in the field of pressure measurement and control.

Copies of the Prospectus Document may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturday and public holidays excepted) from the Company Announcements Office of the London Stock Exchange, Capital Court entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2 (for collection only) from the date of this notice up to and including 27 September 1996 and from the date of this notice up to and including 8 October 1996 from:

Druck Holdings p.l.c.
Fir Tree Lane
Groby
Leicester LE6 0FH

Timms Sainer Dechert
2 Serjeants' Inn
London EC4Y 1LT

25 September 1996

HOW CONFERENCE PHONES SOUNDED BEFORE THE ConferenceLink CS1000



The ConferenceLink CS1000 from U.S. Robotics is one of the most advanced conference phones available today, but with the easy set-up, high quality performance and affordable price – you'll be amazed how different it really is.

- Speak and Listen at the same time – as natural as face-to-face conversation
- 360° coverage with background noise elimination
- Ideal for offices as well as conference rooms
- Free Lifetime Technical Support and 2 Year Warranty
- BABT approved

ONLY **£399** (including VAT)

For Further Information please call the U.S. Robotics Sales Team
FREEPHONE 0800 22 52 52

U.S. Robotics
The Intelligent Choice in Information Access

CONFERENCE LINK CS1000

Mr/Ms/Ms
Initials Title
Company
Address
Post Code
Tel. Fax
U.S. ROBOTICS LIMITED, 650 WHARFLE ROAD, WINNERSH, WIMBORNE, DORSET BH41 5TP. TEL: 01734 236200 FAX: 01734 695555

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Arrol-Johnston (J)	6.7m (7.5m)	0.2m (0.1m)	2.94p (0.83p)	0.75p (0.65p)
Arrol-Johnston (J)	156m (165m)	6.2m (3.0m)	1.43p (0.91p)	0.4p (0.4p)
B&S (J)	9.9m (16m)	3.22m (0.87m)	1.34p (0.51p)	0.1p (0.1p)
British Airways (J)	22.6m (22.2m)	1.25m (0.59m)	2.34p (1.2p)	0.1p (0.1p)
British Airways (J)	110m (87m)	5.8m (4.5m)	5.76p (3.3p)	1.25p (1.25p)
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-	-	-	-
Chelsfield (J)	-</			

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

POS.	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
			254
	Filon Backbone		253



Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

Light Bulbs. Listed below you will find two scores. The Week 6 (Wk 6) column shows all points scored in matches played between Monday 16 - Sunday 22 September inclusive. The Overall (Ov) column shows the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 22 September.

We are also publishing our Top 50 League table (see right). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 15 September. Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday.

If your player of manager has been injured or transferred out of the Premiership, don't despair, there will be a chance to update your team in our transfer period which will be announced soon.



PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will

ZES see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

MONTH 1 PRIZEWINNER

Our first month's winner is Mr David Edmundson from Worthing, Sussex. He has scored 282 points with his team Edmo United and has won a pair of tickets to a qualifying game. The first month's prize is for matches played between Saturday 17 August to Sunday 22 September.

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card.

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr S A Scott	Fion Backbone	254
2	Mr T S Righte	Simply The Best	253
2	Mr Jonathan Sturmes	Z Star Cardiff	253
2	Mr T Saraa	Biza Boys	252
5	Mr Steve Bizdon	Bazzy Def	252
2	Mr David Headmanton	Eredman Unit	252
5	Mr Kris Muray	No Future	251
8	Mr Steve Playne	S.G.W. No. 2	251
8	Mr Ian Newcaste	Care Street	251
8	Mr Brian Murylt	E.G.W	251
8	Mr Ian Newcaste	Frank Freshman	251
8	Mr J Robinson	Chatonase United	250
8	Mr Paul Davies		250
14	Mr Peter Nelson	Middle Mouse E	249
16	Mr Gary Hood	J.N.H. 2	249
16	Mr R Jones	R J 4	247
18	Mr Philip Cartwright	Outing	247
18	Mr Paul Kingdom	N. E. O. D	247
21	Mr P Fra	Rippers 3rd Time Lucky	246
21	Mr P Sherlock	Gunkin Is the Best	246
21	Mr J Perkins	Lincoln St Giles	246
21	Mr Bill Clogue	Hamaozu Latham FC	246
21	Mr Tony Hanna	Aimen Corner Kickers	246
21	Mr Gerald Whitehead	Alice Fergins	246
29	Mr Michael Davis	Jezventus	245
29	Ms Rebecca Kay	That's Handy Harry	244
29	Mr Peter Robinson	Redbrook Devils	243
29	Mr Peter Frankental	On The Ball City	243
29	Mr Paddy Falls	Sandino	243
32	Mr Steven Lawrence	Curleton Crackers	242
32	Mr Steven Hart	Tessa's Little Marrows	242
32	Mr David R Baker	Kees Cowboys	242
32	Mr Simon Seymour	Baker Boys 5	242
36	Mr Andy Blatchford	Grave Interest	241
36	Mr G Lake	Jimmy Hill Hatters Utd	241
36	Mr Richard Colley	Basket of Eggs	241
36	Mr Andrew Burma	Hattrick Delights	241
36	Mr Nigel Pain	Wimbledon Stupidhead	241
36	Mr Ashish Shah	Up and Running	241
36	Mr Andy Beard	Team No 1	241
43	Mr Frank Pendragon	A3 Milan	240
43	Mr D J Hornsby	Cawmere Athletic	240
43	Mr Mark Watson	Good Evans	240
43	Mr S Jardine	Red Star Surrey	240
43	Mr P Stewart	Jardine Second 11th	240
48	Mc J Warnick	Pace Makers	239
48	Dr Tom Boyle	The Velvet Alternative 239	239
48	Mr R Jones	Last Gas Gullits	239
48	Mr Keith Watson	R J Three	239
		Elementary Opportunities	239

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

[illegible]

RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Only entries made via The Independent /Independent on Sunday Fantasy Football official registration phone-lines will be valid.
2. For your Fantasy Football team selection you may only use the players published in the official lists printed in The Independent /Independent on Sunday.
3. Entries must comprise 11 players and one manager. The players must consist of a goal keeper plus one of the four team formations listed last. The total cost of the team, including manager, must not exceed £40 million.

been assigned a fictional transfer value by our experts which represent current ability. There will be no correspondence relating to players or their fictional value.

5. Independent Fantasy Football results are calculated on all matches in the FA Carling Premiership. Points are awarded according to the scoring system described in "How to Score".

6. In the event that a goalkeeper or a defender is substituted, the player substituted and the substitute are both deemed to have played in the match in question. Therefore, if there is a clear

7. The overall prize of the 1996 World Cup trip will go to the team whose total score exceeds that of any other team over the whole season. If there is a tie, a simple draw will take place.

8. One pair of tickets to see England play at Wembley will be awarded to the manager whose team's points exceed that of any other manager during any month. The months are: Month 1: 27/08/96 to 23/09/96 Month 2: 23/09/96 to 17/10/96 Month 3: 23/10/96 to 23/11/96 Month 4: 23/11/96 to 22/12/96 Month 5: 23/12/96 to 14/01/97 Month 6:

10. All points scored during all Premiership matches count towards the league table's total score for the season and the final top prize. No cup or international matches count.

12. **Closing date for entries** is 5pm, 11 September 1996.

5. Employees of Newspaper Publishing plc are also responsible for entries lost or delayed in transfer. Proof of magnetic transcript is not accepted as proof of entry.

minutes. Make sure your team selection correct before challenging so that your call is at the maximum duration.

Newspaper Selection plc reserves the right to stop the game at any time and change the conditions. The Editor's decision is final in all matters relating to the game. No correspondence, either in writing or by telephone, will be entered into.

Should you have any difficulty in registering your team, please call our helpline on 01 71 293 2220.

Motor: Newspaper Publishing plc, One-Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL.

SPORT

CONFESSIONS OF A RUGBY EXILE

As his team prepare to face France tonight, Chris Hewett talks to a controversial Welshman who makes his living in England

Page 24

Preston out to deepen Spurs' misery

Football

Manager Michael Holt will have the chance to repeat his Coca-Cola Cup heroics as Preston attempt to add to Tottenham's woes at White Hart Lane tonight.

The 19-year-old striker, picked up on a free transfer from Blackburn during the summer, gave the Second Division side a glimmer of hope going into the second-leg tie with a late equaliser when the teams drew 1-1 at Deepdale last week.

With Preston gripped by an injury crisis that worsened after Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Wrexham, Holt will again partner the wily Andy Saffell in attack when the famous old club go in search of glory in north London.

The manager, Gary Peters, has fresh fitness worries over new £75,000 signing Mark Rankine, winger Kevin Kilbane and central defender Ryan Kidd. "Our physio Mick Rathbone is a busy man at the moment," Peters said. "The amount of injuries we have is unbelievable."

Preston will beam the action back to Deepdale on a giant screen expected to attract a crowd of around 8,000 – an indication on the potential Peters began to harness when he guided them to promotion last term. But he will be sending his team out against a Spurs side whose demand nothing less than a third round passage following Sunday's 2-1 home defeat by Leicester.

Francis, who has been linked to IK Stockholm's young striker

er Pascal Simpson, is also beset by injury worries, although Teddy Sheringham is winning his battle against a thigh problem. Chris Armstrong is unlikely to shake off the ankle injury that has kept him out, but first-leg goalscorer Darren Anderton will play with the aid of painkillers to numb a groin injury.

Derby's Jim Smith is another manager demanding a better show from his team as the Rams attempt to overturn a 1-0 deficit when Luton travel to the Baseball Ground.

Smith is still without several key players, including the classy Coventry midfielder Aljosha Asanovic, who misses his second game with a thigh strain. Wing-back Chris Powell has a cold and missed training yesterday, but the defender Matt Carbon is available after recovering from concussion.

The German winger Sascha Lennart is set to make his Leicester City debut against Scarborough after being snapped up on a free transfer from Belgian side Royal Antwerp.

several first-team regulars, with his side holding a 2-0 lead, meaning rare outings for goalkeeper Kevin Poole and the transfer-listed pair Mark Robins and Colin Hill. Striker Steve Claridge is out with an ankle injury while Ian Marshall is cup-tied after playing for Ipswich against Bournemouth in the first round.

West Ham, thankful for Tony Cottee's late equaliser in the first leg at Barnet, are confident of finishing the job at Upton Park. Midfielder Ian Bishop, who returned to the Hammers

Lee puzzled by the notion of a poisoned chalice

Talk to Francis Lee about the state of affairs at Manchester City and you are sure to hear about the impressive developments that have taken place during the two and a half years of his chairmanship; the towering £12m Kippax stand with its 600-seat restaurant and sumptuous executive boxes; second-to-none training facilities; a turnaround – profits up from a paltry £60,000 to more than £1m – in catering and marketing. "I defy anyone to come here and not feel that this is a very big club," Lee said this week.

Trouble is that the team has not been worthy of the stage. "We may be better than you think," I remember Lee saying at York races shortly after he returned to Maine Road at the urgent behest of disgruntled supporters. Time proved him wrong. A late burst of form saved City from relegation first time around but the truth of it was made clear last season when they dropped into the First Division.

A year last summer Lee tested the water around George Graham who had yet to be suspended as the result of a "bung" scandal, and Glenn Hoddle before persuading his old pal, Alan Ball, that City had more to offer than Southampton.

Since Ball's sudden departure after a disappointing start to the present campaign Lee has been fishing around unsuccessfully for a manager, the notion of a poisoned chalice made more acute last week when Dave Bassett changed his mind at the last minute. "That's bollocks," Lee stated. "I didn't approach Bassett. He let his interest be known through a

Manchester City's beleaguered chairman explains to Ken Jones the problems he has had finding a new manager and talks frankly of his own role at the club

third party and eventually I got around to making him a terrific offer. I agreed to written assurances that there would be no interference in team matters and the staff changes he wanted. Bassett wanted to bring in the Luton manager, Lennie Lawrence, as his assistant and I went along with that as well. Then on the morning Bassett is supposed to be here he decides to stay with Palace. Draw your

'Bassett wanted to bring in the Luton manager Lennie Lawrence as well... I went along with that'

own conclusions."

If Lee feels used it is understandable. The other day he challenged a group of football reporters to bet on the names of those who had turned down the opportunity of managing City. "Wrong," he snorted when Howard Kendall's name was put forward. "Sheffield United wouldn't allow me to speak with Howard, so that was the end of it." Bassett was dealt with, then Kenny Dalglish who made it clear to Lee that football management no longer appeals to him. "Once I heard that there was no point in mak-

ing Kenny an offer," Lee said. Yes, Lee did approach George Graham after reading comments attributed to him in newspapers. A meeting was arranged between Graham and City's solicitor but nothing came of it. "I think George was just keeping himself in the frame," Lee added.

An interesting thing about Lee is that for three or four years before taking up 29 per cent of City's shares he had more or less turned his back on football. Successful in business and turning out enough winners to gain a great deal of respect in horse racing circles, he rarely saw a game. "Can't be bothered with it," he used to say.

A change of heart followed the realisation that he could only further his burgeoning reputation by moving to one of the big training centres. "My business interests simply didn't allow for that and then came the clamour for me to take over from Peter Swales at Maine Road," he said one night over dinner. "Thinking about all the tremendous years I had there as a player, the mess they were in, how disappointing it all was for the supporters, I couldn't resist it."

Lee knew from the start that he was there to be shot at. Not for him the safety net of philanthropic involvement. Here was the return of an outstanding footballer bringing with him the memory of past glories. Fine, but who could feel comfortable managing City in



Francis Lee: 'I don't understand guys who think it was a good day when they've helped get a manager sacked'

Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

Lee's presence? Does it explain why the search for a new manager is proving so difficult? Lee thinks that to be an insult. "The suggestion that I interfere in team affairs is absolute rubbish," he said. "When Brian Horton was here he made it clear that I wasn't welcome at the training ground and respected his wishes. Alan [Ball] didn't mind me showing up so I went along occasionally, but only to

watch, never to make suggestions. Because I'm often busy elsewhere on Thursdays and Fridays there are lots of weeks when I don't know what team we are putting out until I turn up for matches."

While Lee admits to an input when it comes to buying players he does not think it unusual. "There's a lot of money involved these days and it would surprise me if any big clubs rely solely on the man-

ager's opinion. We've got some excellent scouts here so the decision has to be collective."

Although Lee understands the frustration being expressed by even the most loyal of City's supporters he rejects completely the idea of conceding to another takeover. "In any case, despite all the talk, nobody has come forward. I'm prepared to make all information about the club available but, as a duty to our shareholders, only if I know who I'm dealing with."

The daftest suggestion is that Lee should put his business interests on hold, clear the decks and manage City himself. "No chance," he chuckled. Meanwhile names keep cropping up; the latest is Steve Coppell. Part of the problem, Lee insists, is the role played in all this by some newspapers. "Alan's life was made a mis-

Referee 'shocked' at instant ban for Poole

The referee Richard Poulain has admitted he was shocked by the instant ban given to Birmingham City defender Gary Poole, the man he sent off for pushing him at Maine Road on Saturday.

The Football Association took prompt action on receiving Poulain's faxed report, immediately suspending Poole for two weeks, all of which took the Huddersfield official by surprise.

He said: "I'm shocked and surprised by the FA's action. I didn't know they had an instant ban option. I thought players normally had 14 days' grace. I understand why Birmingham City manager Trevor Francis says he's surprised. So am I."

"I didn't put anything in the report about an assault or an attack. The FA must have put that inference on things themselves. All I wanted to point out was why I sent him off – which was for pushing me from behind."

The 29-year-old former Southend full-back rushed up to referee Poulain after the official had awarded Manchester City a last-minute match-winning penalty. Poulain required treatment from the City physio for the

injury he received after the game and indicated that he would be reporting Poole to the FA.

Lancaster Gate spokesman Steve Double said Poole had been charged with misconduct and has been placed under instant suspension. Double said: "In the situation where a player is alleged to have assaulted a match official it is within our powers to order the offender not to participate in any footballing activity until a commission of inquiry is heard."

That is what has been done today and the hearing to investigate this matter will be held at Lancaster Gate on Monday, 7 October.

The action meant that Poole missed Birmingham's Coca-Cola Cup second round, second leg tie with Coventry last night and will also miss Saturday's important home game with Queen's Park Rangers.

Francis admitted the news had come as a shock to him, with Poole selected in his original line-up for the game against Coventry.

Two North-west neighbours were yesterday busy denying

tongue-tying transfer stories concerning Billy McKinlay and John McGinlay.

Blackburn Rovers dismissed suggestions that the Scotland midfielder McKinlay is set to join Celtic, while Bolton Wanderers denied rumours that McGinlay is ready to join Dundee United.

McKinlay, who played in Euro 96, has yet to start a game for Blackburn this season, but talk of him being unsettled has been dismissed by the club. Tony Parkes, assistant manager at Ewood Park, said: "It's just paper talk. These things happen when a player isn't in the team but Billy seems very happy here."

Bolton have denied that striker McGinlay is on his way to Dundee United. Reports north of the border suggested the 32-year-old Inverness-born McGinlay is a target for the Tannadice club, but the Bolton manager, Colin Todd, said: "There isn't an ounce of truth in the story."

McGinlay has played a leading role in helping Bolton surge to the top of the First Division this season following last season's relegation from the Premiership.

Kinnear keen to keep Holdsworth

The Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, yesterday insisted he wants to keep Dean Holdsworth at the club even though the £5m-rated striker is still on the transfer list at Selhurst Park.

Kinnear and Holdsworth appear to have patched up their early-season differences, with the England B striker returning to the Dons starting line-up.

"We had a clash of opinions and mine was always going to win," Kinnear said. "You can only

have one man running the club and that is me. The club always comes first. But all that is in the past and I want to keep him."

The reconciliation has coincided with renewed speculation that Everton, who made a bid for Holdsworth two years ago, have renewed their interest.

The Leicester striker Mark Robins, whose Premiership chances have been limited so far, has put in a surprise transfer request. Robins joined

Leicester from Norwich for £1m 20 months ago.

The Birmingham owner, David Sullivan, has given the Football Association his backing should they choose to ban the club's fans from away games following violent scenes at the end of Saturday's First Division game at Manchester City.

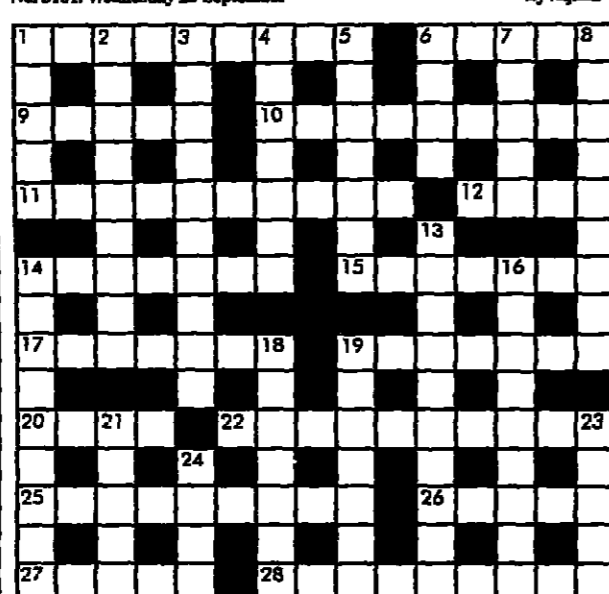
"If they are not careful, we won't have a club in Birmingham and the ground will be shut down," Sullivan said.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3101. Wednesday 25 September

By Agatha

Thursday's Solution



INSULTED SAMPLER
NO HEADLINE
OPIUM MACY GENTLE
BAND LONING CLOTH
ON VENEZUELA
NOT WATER BOOTLE
P A T E V D
REPORTER DESPICE
S B I N D O C E I L E
SINCE NOSED PORCH
EN O E O A A
RIDER KINGSWOMAN
V E T E O E I L E
EARTHEN BARAGINE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hart's sigh, perhaps, hiding? (9)
 - 6 British hooters taking punches? (5)
 - 9 Century not recorded when he led India (5)
 - 10 Hit that produces a single (9)
 - 11 Lay down in studio, carpeted or otherwise (4-6)
 - 12 State of a hut that is to be demolished (4)
 - 14 Water pipes for both grass and the weed (7)
 - 15 Habits in key hotels, possibly (7)
 - 17 Ecotonic, like a bobby taking refreshment (7)
 - 19 Passengers no longer flying victims (7)
 - 20 Lazy, go furiously leaving society behind (4)
 - 22 Vintage has success, for example, taking bow (4-6)
 - 25 Does point spread in New Zealand, for example? (9)
 - 26 Travelling at high speed, fashion at university (3-2)
 - 27 Muscle in the wrong quarters? (5)
 - 28 Accountant with capital advanced something to put on a horse (9)

- DOWN**
- 1 Implied one is in diplomacy (5)
 - 2 Perfectly dry inside, says painter in evidence (9)
 - 3 Rather as we disturb oceanic bird (10)
 - 4 At-home parties of painted ladies, say? (7)
 - 5 Comprehensive information on old blood-fine (7)
 - 6 Transport to conduct oneself? (4)
 - 7 Was it transformed by Banting? (5)
 - 8 Producing compound error, reportedly, on paper (9)
 - 13 Strong wire all around Berlin, for example (10)
 - 14 Name for gangsters derived from Ohio slang (9)
 - 16 Robin spardies with tricks? (9)
 - 18 A girl held in endless car of Chinese society (7)
 - 19 Journalists out of bed for exercise? (5-2)
 - 21 Dismute the French male's weight (3-2)
 - 23 Rent advanced here in Yorkshire (5)
 - 24 Throw up church-bench on Sunday (4)